



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - August 2025

Our speaker on 28th August will be Phil Burt and his subject will be

"I Followed that Dream—Forty Years in the Making"

Lunch is Chicken Breast with leek and wild mushrooms with Chef's choice of potatoes or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our August meeting. By the time that we meet, one of our major fund raisers, the Wilmington Fete, will be history. As this is being written before the event I cannot comment on the day itself. If you are receiving this on or before Monday can I please ask you to give it your fullest support? My grateful thanks to all the members who support the Club by manning or visiting our pitch.

My thanks to those who attended the Summer Lunch and assisted in raising £300 towards our charities. I hope that you enjoyed Leon's magnificent spread and Jessica Wright's singing. Certainly I was delighted at the warmth and good humour evident at the time.

The visit to Foal Farm on 13th provided a valuable insight into the work of the charity and I hope that those of you who joined it found it as enjoyable as I did. It is possible that our guide felt that she was herding cats, indeed I was so absorbed with the cats that I missed the final stages of the tour.. I was particularly surprised by the "care to death" commitment to the large animals. (Even the pigs who have incurred expense by killing the trees that we saw being cut down).

Despite the lack of a Social Secretary (volunteers please contact Phil Burt) we have a full programme of events between now and Christmas. There is the Autumn break arranged, as his swan song, by Colin, a disco dinner dance on 18th October and of course our Christmas Lunch on 1st December. These in addition to the regular bi-monthly pub lunches and walks.

Also please look out for a board for the 2026 Spring Break being circulated at our meeting. While I am very grateful to Roy for organising the break it is sad that.. Continued—>

Welcome Continued

15 years after he was in the chair, we are dependent in him to organise the event. We do need newer members to step up and help in running the club if we are to be around in the years to come.

There have been years when we have complained about wet English summers, and holidayed abroad to guarantee sun. This year has shown that the other side of the fence is not always better and certainly not greener. I hope that you have found ways of enjoying the fine weather and that your gardens will recover. If you have already been away I hope that you have many happy memories, if you are yet to go may you go safely and have an enjoyable break.

My Best wishes, enjoy your lunch.

David

My family told me to get help with my drinking. I hired a bartender.



Social Committee Report

25th August The Wilmington Fete takes place and Probus will be running the usual two stalls and are looking for volunteers to help out please.

3rd September A Social Lunch will be held at The Plough, Wilmington starting at 12 noon. Please complete the board if you are planning to attend.

10th September Our walk will be from Birchwood Golf Club, Birchwood Rd, DA2 7HJ starting at 10.30 am and will be lead by Phil Burt. See page 3 for details.

9th October Colin's next event is our "Autumn Break" and he has booked Judds Folly Hotel in Faversham. You have all been circulated, please let Colin know if you are going to come, so far 24 have booked in.

Saturday, 18 October Steve has arranged an Autumn Dinner and Dance at Dartford Golf Club. We have an excellent meal arranged and instead of a live band we have engaged the services of a professional DJ—Billy Morris, who will play all of your favourite sing along dance tunes. A flyer is now available and it includes details of the menu for your selection. The flyer has now been sent out so we look forward to receiving your booking. Dress code is Black Tie or lounge suit and the cost is £48.00 pp. Tickets are selling fast so please contact Steve Brown on 07810 186827 or steveb41@sky.com for details and make a booking.

6th November A Social Lunch will be held at The Plough, Wilmington starting at 12 noon. Please complete the board if you are planning to attend.

1st December is the day for our Christmas Lunch which is being held at the Dartford Golf Club. We are still waiting for menus and costing but as soon as this is known we will let you know. Steve Brown is organising the event this year and a board will be issued soon.

17th December Phil is planning a Theatre Outing—See page 4 for details

27th April 2026 The Spring Break in 2026 will be from 27 April to 1 May at Littlecote House which is located on a prestigious Berkshire estate and is one of Warner's most historic locations. The great services of coach driver, Stuart Howe, will again be provided for 2026.

The approximate cost of the 4 night break will be £492 per person for a double or twin room. £593 per person for a single room. Based on 35 people on the holiday. There are optional extras per room for the entire stay - £60 upgrade to Signature room (this may be more for a single room) - £10 for any special room requests, e.g. walk in shower or room near facilities etc - £30 per person for insurance to cover the booking (this has just been increased by Warners). **These must be notified at the time of booking.**

If you are interested in joining us please contact Roy, preferably by email at royfreeman@btopenworld.com or telephone 01474 813231. Please also mention any optional extras. A deposit of £50 per person is required to be paid to our Treasurer by 7 September.
Jane & Roy Freeman.

Walks Report

On September 10th our walk will be from Birchwood Golf Club, Birchwood Rd, DA2 7HJ starting at 10.30 am and will be lead by Phil Burt. We will be walking from the golf course directly up into Joydens Wood where the peaceful nature of the place encloses you and you forget that you are on the outskirts of London. We will see various beautiful wood carvings and a monument to the brave as well as the lovely colours of the woods. There are some gentle inclines and some small stiles to clamber over but it's worth the effort and after about 2.5 to 3 miles we will arrive back at the golf club to have lunch for about 12.30.

If you would like to join me, then please let me know if you are walking, walking and eating or just eating by Monday 8th lunchtime.

Phil

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in August and September

Keith Cass, Clive Freeland, Gary Mullins, Alf Oakes
and Jimmy Winterflood



The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

Autumn Break (1)	£ 4,168.00
Autumn Social (2)	£ 664.00
Chairman's Charity (3)	£ 941.00
Contingency Fund	£ 1,600.00
General Fund	£ 1,227.02
Amount in Bank	£ 8,600.02

(1) Member Deposits Paid £1,300/Balances paid £3,368 less deposit paid £500*

(2) Payments received 18 x £48 = £864 less deposits paid £200

(3) Donation £40/Barrow of Booze Donations £330/Chairman's Lunch raffle £330/
Surplus on Chairman's Lunch £115 = £965 less Stall Fee Wilmington Fair £24.

* NB - Outstanding Payments 2 x £396/Members Deposits to possibly be refunded
2x £100

Ian

Theatre Outing

I'm booking (but not confirmed yet) to see a new production of 'Top Hat' at the Queen Elizabeth Hall South Bank Centre.

*There may be trouble ahead,
But while there's moonlight, and music,
And love, and romance...
Let's face the music and dance*

Effervescent, elegant and exhilarating, Top Hat is a heady romantic cocktail laced with sparkingly witty dialogue, stunning choreography, lavish sets and gorgeous costumes. Irving Berlin's irresistible score includes some of Hollywood's greatest songs, including the immortal Cheek to Cheek, Let's Face the Music and Dance, Top Hat, White Tie and Tails and Puttin' on the Ritz. When Broadway star Jerry Travers arrives in London to open a new show, he crosses paths with model Dale Tremont, whose beauty sleep is rudely interrupted by Jerry tap dancing in the hotel suite above hers. Instantly smitten, Jerry vows to abandon his bachelor life to win her – but the path of true love never does run smooth. Especially since Dale has mistaken Jerry for his hapless producer Horace, who's trying to avoid the wrath of his formidable wife Madge, and Dale's own fiery Italian admirer is planning a trip to Venice for her to showcase his couture gowns...

Based on the classic 1935 film which starred Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers, the stage adaptation's West End premiere won the 2013 Olivier Award for Best New Musical and the Evening Standard Award for Best Night Out. Acclaimed American director and choreographer Kathleen Marshall, whose Tony and Olivier Award-winning production of Anything Goes recently wowed audiences and critics in London and on television, comes to the UK to stage this brand-new production.

The date I have asked for is Wednesday 17th December at 2pm. The tickets will be one of the following prices £70 seats reduced to **£49**, or £75 seats reduced to **£52.50** or £80 seats reduced to **£56** -the price will be confirmed when the booking is confirmed.

Please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to attend, I have asked for 20 seats so far but hopefully will be able to increase that number! **Phil**

- I'm pleased to say that Phil Ellerman and Joe Irwin have offered to be stewards from this lunch onwards – my thanks to them! Please be patient with them as they learn the ropes!
- If you haven't received your Bowls Club membership card, please let me know so I can chase it. **Phil**

Lunch on 28th August will be Chicken Breast with leek and wild mushrooms or Fish and Chips

Lunch on 25th September will be Roast Salmon with Asparagus or Vegetable Lasagne.

Speaker's Report

In August our speaker will be our Phil Burt and his subject is "I followed that Dream—Forty Years in the Making". I'm sure you will agree it sounds fascinating!

In September we have Jo Livingston taking us on an Architectural Pub Crawl. A look at some of the buildings which could so easily have been demolished but are now pubs!

Steve