



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - June 2025

*Our speaker on 26th June will be Steve Bird and his subject will be
"The Dutch in the Medway"*

*Lunch is Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding with Chef's choice of potatoes
or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.*

Chairman's Welcome

A hearty welcome to our June meeting. As a teenager I was distressed to hear of the success of the Dutch fleet in 1667. Following the seizure of Sheerness, they attacked Chatham. Hopefully today's speaker will explain how it happened, what happened afterwards and how we recovered. (Of course we did get a Dutch king in 1688).

Following our May lunch I have pleasure in welcoming Maurice Tilley as our Vice-Chairman. I know that should I be unable to attend the club will be in safe hands. We also have a vacancy on the committee, volunteers are invited to form a queue at our Secretary's desk

I had a prior engagement so I was unable to join the visit to "The Great Gatsby" but I understand that the 12 members who went thoroughly enjoyed the show. Please speak to a committee member if you think we should continue to organise theatre visits.

Whether you have already holidayed or are still looking forward to a break, may I hope that you enjoy a relaxing and enjoyable summer. As always, gardeners and farmers wish for more sun/rain moderate/high/low temperatures, in the UK we have weather not a climate. As I learned in primary school, we must weather the weather whatever the weather whether we like it or not.

The Wilmington Fete on August 25th. is one of our major sources of funds for our charities, however we need members to staff the stall. My thanks to those of you who have already volunteered. Could I ask you to consider supporting the Club by giving some time on the day to manning the pitch. On the basis of many hands and light

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Welcome Continued

work perhaps we could divide the load between setting up, hourly slots, and putting away. I will have a board available for volunteers at our next meeting.

Over 40 million people living in the USA claim Irish descent or to be an Irish immigrant this is eight times the entire population of Ireland.

*Sign on a Swanley pub carpark
"Camera Controlled Patrons Only"*

My best wishes, enjoy your lunch.

David

Our Chairman's Charities this year are as follows:



Social Committee Report

9th July—This months walk will start at 10.30 am from the car park at the rear of Cobham School, the distance will be approximately 2-3 miles. Please contact Peter Marsh (see page 3)

Thursday 31st July Booking is now open for the Chairman's Summer Lunch (this is our regular meeting date), wives, partners, friends are all welcome at £30 each. Dress code is colourful and we are being entertained by Jessica Wright.

There is a line in the musical Calamity Jane when Jane, when introducing Katie Brown, says we don't import entertainers we grow our own. Our lunch in July will follow this precept,

Jessica Wright is Wilmington through and through. She is a Musical theatre performer who has performed in many shows both across the UK and internationally. She made her West End debut at the age of 12 in 'Billy Elliot the Musical' playing 'Susan Parks', and has most recently performed in 'Hello Dolly' at Théâtre du Lido in Paris covering the role of 'Minnie Fay'. Other theatre credits include: 'Oklahoma! 80th Anniversary concert' at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Gladys and 1st cover Anytime Annie in '42nd Street' at Sadler's Wells Theatre, UK tour and Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto, Lorraine in '42nd Street' at Upstairs at the Gatehouse and Dance captain understudy Beauty in 'Sleeping Beauty' at Buxton Opera House.

Please support the event in good numbers, (and by the way there will be a raffle for charity. Your contributions will be gratefully received.) If you and your partner are coming please advise Phil.

13th August Self drive visit to FOAL farm Biggin Hill arriving at 14.30. 21 booked so far.

26th 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.

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.

On **Saturday, 18 October** we have 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. We will also send the flyer out in due course. 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 Phil Burt on 07795 576294 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. Details will be supplied soon but it is being held at the Dartford Golf Club.

Peter, David, Colin and Steve

Walks Report

The walk on 9th July will start at 10.30 am from the car park at the rear of Cobham School DA12 3BN. The distance will be 2-3 miles

Lunch will be in the Darnley Arms, Cobham DA12 3BZ. Will those walking and those wishing just to join us for lunch please advise me by email by 4th July. Please do not phone as I am away from 18th June—4th July inclusive.

Peter Marsh

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in June and July

Les Fish, Roy Freeman, Ed Holbrook,
Kevin Pronger and Richard Wells



Lunch on 26th June will be Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding or Fish and Chips

The next lunch will be on 31st July and this will be the Chairman's Summer lunch which is a Buffet .

Club Membership Report

Our new 2025/26 Probus members handbooks are printed and will be issued over the next two meetings.

The Bowls club membership cards will be issued when ALL probus members have been found to have paid as membership should have been renewed in April.

Ed

There is no Club Financial report this month but Ian will cover the situation at the June luncheon.

Speaker's Report

Our Speaker this month is Steve Bird who has spoken to us before about Marlborough: England's Greatest Soldier and The Home Guard. His subject this time will be "The Dutch in the Medway"

In July we will have our Chairman's Summer lunch (see page 2 for details) and will have entertainment instead of a speaker.

Steve