



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - February 2024

Our Speaker on 29th February will be Mike Ball and his subject is "Cross-Channel swimming"

Lunch is English Lamb Steak with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Welcome

Our January meeting went well with a very interesting talk given by Don Cockrill MBE on the Evergreen container ship, the Ever Given, which became famous for running aground in the Suez Canal, blocking it for 6 days.

His talk covered insights to what caused the accident and the subsequent difficulties that ensued with the ships held up for those 6 days and the clearing of the route once she was free.

It was clearly a talk that interested many members as there was a lengthy Q&A session that followed.

Later in February we held our Bunny Race Night, this is always an amusing evening and this time was no exception, we had 61 joining in and everyone got into the spirit. We all enjoyed a meal in the basket midway through the event before we tucked away our very tired Bunnies.

Jack



Mixed Box of Jokes

"I bought myself some glasses. My observational comedy improved."

Sara Pascoe

"You know you're working class when your TV is bigger than your book case."

Rob Beckett

"How many philosophers does it take to change a lightbulb?... none. They're not really into that sort of thing. If it's that dark, light a candle."

Phil Cornwell

"The first time I met my wife, I knew she was a keeper. She was wearing massive gloves."

Alun Cochrane

As a kid I was made to walk the plank. We couldn't afford a dog."

Gary Delaney

"Normally you have news, weather and travel. But not on snow day. On a snow day, news is weather is travel."

Michael McIntyre

"I was in my car driving back from work. A police officer pulled me over and knocked on my window. I said, 'One minute I'm on the phone.'"

Alan Carr

Social Committee Report

We held another “Bunnies” race night on Friday, 23 February 2024, 61 members and friends attended and enjoyed it.

Our “Cockney Night” at Whiteoak with entertainment by “Cockney Knights” in the style of “Chas & Dave and Others” with a “Pie & Mash” supper, this will be on Saturday, 30 March 2024. So far 47 have booked in, I assure that you will have a great “Knight” with us.

Our Chairman’s Dinner this year will be held at Princes Park for Friday, 19 April 2024. Our entertainer will be Sarah Barker as she was so enjoyed by all last time. The menus have been sent out by email of all members, widows and friends. If you didn’t receive it or couldn’t open it please let me know.

Our Spring Break 2024 is to Great Yarmouth at The Imperial Hotel and so far we have 37 members and friends/partners going. If anyone else would like to join us please let me know as soon as possible.

We are planning more and will be letting you know soon.

Colin

Ideas and Volunteers

The Committee are working hard to bring new events to entertain you all in 2024 but we need new ideas and new volunteers please.

We normally try to book outings in May, July and September and these days are still free, waiting for volunteers to arrange something. Have you visited somewhere recently that you enjoyed and fancy arranging a trip with Probus members? Have you heard of a Daytrip that you like the sound of and could make the arrangements for a few members? We would love to hear from you.

Also, we’ve been arranging walks at Probus for many years but now Roy Freeman is retiring from his position as Walks Coordinator and we need a new volunteer. We also need more people to come forward and arrange walks. If you are interested, please contact any Committee member who will be happy to explain what is involved and help out where we can.

Finally, twice a year we have a break at a suitable hotel and trips to see local places of interest. The next break is to Great Yarmouth in May for 4 nights but we need new suggestions for a break in October. If you have any ideas and are willing to help us arrange something, please let us know.

Steve

VOLUNTEER
all that's missing is U!

Walks Information from Roy

Our walk on 14 February led by Andrew Dunk from the Ship Inn, Cobham, attracted 9 walkers (excellent! May there be more!) Being forced to cancel November's walk, Andrew was determined to do this walk. Fortunately, although the forecast was for showers, we experienced only one or two little short bursts of very light rain. Andrew led us through Jeskyns Community Woodland to the café where coffee was enjoyed by all in the shelter. Much to the delight of Archie, Kevin's dog, the return section took us via Henhurst Lake where a very wet dog finally emerged!

We returned just after midday to find that the Ship Inn had no power and there would be a minimum delay of at least 45 minutes. As the road through Cobham was closed, some of us would not be able to walk back to one of the other pubs in the village and a round trip via the A2 was not viable, Andrew contacted the Golden Lion Inn at Luddesdown and after some consideration they were able to accommodate an extra 16 for lunch. It was a bit of a baptism of fire for the chef as it was his first day! However, it must be said that the food was excellent and we were able to enjoy a chat and drinks while we waited for our lunches. All together an enjoyable morning.

Phil Burt leads the next walk on 13 March from the car park at Scadbury Park (MR 453705). The walk starts at 10.30 and Phil describes it as an undulating walk of 3 miles mostly on hard paths passing through pastures and woods with an interesting moated house to view. Also, he says, watch out for wild bears! Lunch will be at the Sydney Arms at 12.30pm. Pre-ordering is not required but **please advise Phil if attending the walk, the lunch or both by 12.00 noon on Monday, 11 March** so that he can make sure that he does not miss anyone and to confirm numbers to the pub.

I am sure that the terrain will suit many and who wouldn't like to see wild bears? So come along for a bit of exercise and fresh air followed by a convivial lunch and chat.

DIRECTIONS Take the A20 to the roundabout at Queen Mary's Hospital and leave at the first exit on the A222, Perry Street to Chislehurst. In ¼ miles, just past the petrol station, turn left into Old Perry Street. Continue past the Sydney Arms and the entrance to Scadbury Park car park is on the left just past the pub.

Roy

Birthdays

**A Happy Birthday to everyone with a
Birthday in February and March**

Ron Armstrong, Paul Butler,
David Cooper, Tony Duffield,
Andrew Dunk, Bernard Nash
and Colin Verry



The walkers at Jeskyns on 14th February

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		3465
General Funds		207
Pending Payment:		5093
Contingency Fund		1989
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		10754

Preliminary figures from the 'Bunnies' Racing Night indicate an additional £421 for the Chairman's charities which is included above. Funds pending payment are in relation to this year's Spring Break, the Cockney Night and the Annual Dinner

Derek

February Facts

The Roman month *Februarius* was named after the Latin term *februum*, which means "purification", via the purification ritual *Februa* held on February 15 (full moon) in the old lunar Roman calendar. January and February were the last two months to be added to the Roman calendar, since the Romans originally considered winter a month-less period. Before Julius Caesar's calendar reform of 45BC, February was the only month with an even number of days. All the rest had 29 or 31.

FEBRUARY is now with us and it is still the shortest month even if it is a day longer than usual this year. February is the only month that can pass with no full moon. This can occur only in February; it happens about every 19 years. This will next occur in 2037.

The birthstone for February is amethyst. The ancient Greeks believed that amethyst protected the wearer from drunkenness. The birth flower is the violet or iris. *Much Ado About Nothing* is the only Shakespeare play that mentions February. In it, he refers to "such a February face, So full of frost, of storm and cloudiness." The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a "leaper" or "leapling."

Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the temporary Membership Secretary, Ed Holbrook on 01322 863130 or e-mail: Ed.holbrook@icloud.com

Speaker's Corner

Our speaker on 29th February is Mike Ball and his subject is "Cross-Channel swimming"

Our speaker on 28th March is our Keith Cass and his subject is "The Mustard Seed Project"

I hope you can join us for both luncheons. **AD**