



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - March 2024

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

Lunch is Pan Fried Chicken with Baby Onions and Pancetta with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Welcome

At our last meeting we had a thoroughly interesting talk from Mike Ball regarding his wonderful achievement in swimming the Channel and being as it is 22 miles at the shortest and the fact that he swam about 32 miles owing to the strong currents one encounters during the crossing is amazing. Also avoiding the odd cross Chanel Ferry. It made for a very communal talk as he was answering the various questions as they arose during the video.

We are now looking forward to our Cockney Night on Saturday 30th, I am pleased to say it is well supported and should be a fun night with Pie, Mash and Peas at half time.

We are also looking for some fresh blood on the committee, and with all our lovely new members perhaps we may also have some new ideas. Please feel free to approach any of us, as any new approach regarding entertainment or visits would be welcomed.

Jack



Please see the back page for an important message from our Secretary.

Easter Jokes

One Easter, a father was teaching his son to drive when out of nowhere a rabbit jumped on the road. Slamming on the brakes, the son said, "I nearly ruined Easter! I almost ran over the Easter Bunny." His father replied, "It's okay son—you missed it by a hare."

What kind of jewellery does the Easter Bunny wear? 14-carrot gold.

What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school? He was eggspelled!

Why did the Easter Bunny have on a hat? Because he was having a bad hare day.

Therapist: What's been up lately?
Chocolate bunny: I don't know Doc, I just feel so hollow inside.

What do you call a mischievous Easter egg? A practical yolker

How do you make a rabbit stew? Make it wait for three hours!

Why won't Easter eggs go out at night? *They don't want to get beat up!*

I was going to tell you a joke about an egg, but it's not all it's cracked up to be.

What do bunnies say when they come home from work? "Anybunny home?"

How can you tell which rabbits are oldest in a group? *Just look for the grey hares.*

Social Committee Report

Our "Cockney Night" at Whiteoak with entertainment by "Cockney Knights" in the style of "Chas & Dave and Others" with a "Pie & Mash" supper, this is on Saturday, 30 March 2024. So far 54 have booked in, I am sure that you will have a great "Knight" with us.

Our Chairman's Dinner this year will be held at Princes Park on 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 to all our 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 34 members and friends/partners going. Sadly, I have to remind those going that your final payment is due by the end of March. Our Itinerary will be finalised shortly and a pre-booking form for the outward midway stop has been sent out and I hope to have all your requests soon.

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

We are really in need of support for the Social Committee as some of us have been "doing it" for a long time. Please if you have the knack of organising social events let us know.

At this moment we have lots of possible venues for this year's Autumn Getaway, but no one to coordinate. So sadly, we may not be going.

Colin

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

| | £ | £ |
|--|---|--------------|
| Chairman's Charities | | 3492 |
| General Funds | | 238 |
| Pending Payment: | | 13620 |
| Contingency Fund | | 1989 |
| Balance held in Cash or in Bank | | 19339 |

The main changes relate to additions to funds held pending payment being £11800 for the Spring Break, £1182 for the Cockney Night and £638 for the Annual Dinner. General funds are holding up well.

Derek

Walks Information from Roy

Our March walk on the 13th was led by Phil Burt from the car park at Scadbury Park . The walk started at 10.30 with a total of 9 walkers. Phil had described it as an undulating walk of 3 miles mostly on hard paths. What that description failed to take into account was the rain of the previous 2 days! The paths were wet underfoot and very muddy in places. However the weather gods stayed kind and it remained dry. Whilst slightly undulating it was a pleasant walk through fields and woods. Unfortunately, Phil suffered from the curse of all walks leaders and took a wrong turning along the muddiest section. To get back on the right route we had to go back over the same muddy section again! All was well in the end.

The wild bears? These turned out to be not so wild and were carved wood bears that are located along a walk around the Borough of Bromley. On returning shortly after midday we retired to the Sydney Arms for a well deserved drink and excellent food where we were joined by a further 3.

10th April is the date of the next walk and Peter Marsh will lead the walk from the White Cross Inn, North Cray Rd., Sidcup, DA14 5EL, (MR488723, /// link.slimy.return). The walk is in Footscray Meadows, where we have enjoyed several walks in the past. The walk is gentle with one or two very easy slopes on good paths of about 2.5 miles. The walk is on the west side of the river Cray through the nature reserve towards Footscray Manor then cross the river and back on the east side to the Inn. The walk starts at 10.30am and return will be approximately 12.15pm. Pre-booking is not required for the meal **but please advise Peter if attending the lunch so that he can warn the Inn of likely numbers (01474 812331, mob 07778 836328, marsh1947@btinternet.com)**

I had hoped to lead this walk as it is the final monthly walk I will organise but circumstances conspired against me and I am unable to do so. I have thoroughly enjoyed arranging the walks (twisting a few arms on the way!) and I hope someone will come forward to continue this activity for the members and associates of the club.

Roy

DIRECTIONS Leave Wilmington via Leyton Cross to join the A2018 adjacent to the Old Bexley lane junction with the A2. Turn left on the A2018 and follow the road for one mile to reach a junction with the A223 in Old Bexley. Turn left and follow the A223 (North Cray Rd.) for 1.5 miles. Pass the pub on the right but continue as this is a dual carriageway and the pub is not accessible at this point. After 0.5 miles reach an exit on the right signed to Loring Hall. Turn right and return on the other carriageway of the A223 to reach the pub. The entrance to the car park is just before the pub.

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Birthday in March and April

Paul Butler, Joe Irwin, Peter Onley,
Howard Wardell and David Viggers



The Committee

We are justifiably proud, at our club, to have a good, full and varied programme of all events. This takes some organising and we need people to join the team to be able to keep up that high standard. So, please think hard about what 'you can do for your club rather than what your club can do for you'! Sorry to mis-quote a well-known saying! Please let me know how you would like to help out. This is the situation.

The AGM is set for April 25th and at the AGM, as per the constitution, the whole committee is up for re-election. We have already had nominations for some posts from the existing committee but we are short of some others. So, we need some volunteers please! I have listed here the positions that there are and the ones that need filling and the reason why and any notes appertaining to that position.

Chairman – Keith Cass nominated

Vice Chair – vacant. The existing vice-chair is becoming Chairman. The job is a good way to learn the Chairs job as you would stand-in if the Chair is able to attend a function

Secretary – Phil Burt nominated – but happy to stand down if you really want to do this job!

Treasurer – Derek Putman – Derek would like someone to shadow him and learn the ropes as he intends to retire from the role later on this year or at next year's AGM.

Social Secretary – responsible for leading the social committee in organising all the social events – Colin, after serving for 10 years, wants to step back and would happily give advice on this role to ease the person into the position

General committee members – we normally have up to 6. I have had nominations from Jack Swift, Steve Brown, Andrew Dunk and Colin Verry. These positions are 'without portfolio' but normally three of them look after minor roles. These 'minor' roles are as follows

Membership/sickness secretary - Ed Holbrook nominated

Walks secretary – vacant. Co-ordinates the monthly walk leaders and compiles a short report for each committee meeting and newsletter. Roy is stepping down after a very long time.

Speaker secretary – vacant. Andrew Dunk has speakers organised until next year and has a large selection and data on previous speakers and is happy to assist the new person until they are happy in their new role. He feels that new blood in this role is needed to keep the meeting fresh and interesting.

So to summarise, we need a Vice Chair, Social Secretary. Walks secretary and Speaker secretary for the committee and a future treasurer to learn the job. If you need more information or want to talk about an idea you have, please do not hesitate to call me .

Phil

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 28th March is our Keith Cass and his subject is "The Mustard Seed Project".

Our AGM is being held on 25th April and our speaker will be from Jack's charity Around and Around. Lunch will be Gammon Steak with Fried Egg plus the usual choices.

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