



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - October 2025

*Our speaker on 30th October will be Bob Ogle and his subject will be
"Biggin on The Bump"*

*Lunch is Liver and Bacon with onion gravy with Chef's choice of potatoes
or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.*

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our October meeting. In my youth I saw many WW2 war films, often set in and around Biggin Hill. I hope that like me you are looking forward to hearing from our speaker, more of this iconic location.

My thanks to those who joined me at the Memorial Service for Michael Iveson a well remembered and highly respected member of the club.

My apologies for my absence from the Autumn break. I understand that Colin made it an event to be remembered. The dinner/disco provided excellent food followed by dancing to popular music and was much enjoyed by those present and raised £205 for charity. However numbers and cancellations resulted in the event making a loss. Ticket prices are calculated to cover both food and venue costs. Your committee has concluded that in future, refunds for timely cancellations will have to be restricted to the food element of the admission fee only.

On Sunday 8th November I will be attending the Remembrance Day service at St Michael's following which (at noon) I will be laying a wreath on behalf of the club at the War Memorial opposite the bus shelter.

Our Christmas lunch at the Dartford Golf Club is on Monday 1st December, a mere four days after our regular November lunch. The October lunch is therefore the last one at which you can book your places. Equally, these days even using 2nd Class (we'll get round to it)

Continued:>>>>

Welcome Continued

post you will probably spend about £1.50 on each Christmas Card you post. Why not save yourself from writer's cramp and in exchange for a donation to our charities put your greetings on the club Christmas card?

My best wishes, enjoy your lunch.

David

From a school science test:

Q: What happens to a boy when he reaches puberty? A: He says good-bye to his boyhood and looks forward to his adultery.

(The kid gets an A+ for this answer!)



Social Committee Report

Autumn Getaway - 20 members and guests enjoyed the break at Judd's Folly Hotel. Faversham is a central location to explore North Kent and we all did. Rooms were warm and comfortable, food plentiful and our hosts very friendly.

Social Lunch - Wednesday, 5 November 2025, The Plough 65 High Street, Wilmington DA2 7BW, 12 for 12.30 please let Colin know if you are coming. colin.verry@sky.com

Amazon Visit - Wednesday, 12 November 2025, This is proving much more problematical than expected as so far no firm bookings can be made. The lunch booking at the Beacon Beefeater is OK and Phil has suggested that if the visit is not possible we all still meet in the area and we would walk around before having our lunch. phil.burt@ntlworld.com

Chairman's Christmas Lunch - Monday, 1 December 2025, We currently have 30 booked with 20 members, guest & widows still to be approached. We have a fine choice of main courses this year including Turkey, Fillet of Cod or Vegetable Wellington and some lovely starters and puddings. More information at our next luncheon and this will be circulated to all. Steveb41@sky.com

Theatre Visit -Top Hat - Wednesday, 17 December 2025, Queen Elizabeth Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London, SE1 8XX. 19 Booked and paid for, Phil will circulate tickets in due course. phil.burt@ntlworld.com

Chairman's Dinner - Saturday, 18 April 2026, Booked at Princes Park and entertainer also booked. More details to follow.

Spring Break Roy & Jane - Our visit to Warners at Littlecote, more details in due course, bookings are now closed.

Autumn Break 2026 - Colin has volunteered to investigate an all inclusive 3 or 4 night break at "Potters 5 Lakes" resort near Maldon in Essex. More news in due course.

Colin

Christmas Card Greetings

Steve has agreed to compose a Christmas Card again for this year. If you would like to send a greeting to all your Probus friends, then please send Steve your words and send Ian a donation via BACS (suitably annotated) that will go into the Chairman's Charity.

The closing date for this is 15th November but Steve would like them as soon as possible so that they are ready for distribution at the Chairman's Christmas lunch on 1st December.

Phil

Walks Report

In place of the walk on 12th November, we were hoping to arrange a visit to the Amazon Facility at Dartford, followed by lunch at the nearby Beefeater Restaurant. However our plans are being thwarted by the fact that Amazon haven't released the dates for November yet.

The current plan is to arrange a walk to take place in the local area along the Thames Path and ending at the Beefeater for coffee/lunch. We have a reservation for lunch at 12.00 but could change it if necessary and make it later.

We will be able to confirm the situation at the lunch on Thursday.

Andrew and Phil

Two small children find a hole in the fence by a nudist camp. One peers in through the hole. The other asks "Are they men or ladies in there?" I can't tell," says the first. "None of them have got any clothes on."

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in October and November

Steve Brown, John Symes, Eric Hookins, Peter Spurin,
Derek Putman, David Rimmer, John Longstaff, Peter Marsh,
Maurice Tilley and Clive West



The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

Chairman's Charity	£ 1,742.22
Spring Break (1)	£ 1,590.00
Contingency Fund	£ 1,700.00
General Fund (2)	£ 983.48
Amount in Bank	£ 6,015.70

(1) Payments received £2,000 less deposits paid £410

(2) Includes £150 cash

Ian

THE SMUGGLER'S JOKE

Nasrudin is going across the border with a donkey carrying bundles of straw on its back. The border guard stops him and asks him his business. "I'm a smuggler!" Nasrudin replies bluntly.

The guard narrows his eyes. He searches through every single one of the bundles of straw but he can't find anything and so he has to let Nasrudin pass by.

The next day Nasrudin is back with his donkey laden with yet more bundles of straw. Again the border guard searches thoroughly through the straw. Again he cannot find anything and again he has to let him pass by.

This pattern happens every day for several years during which time the guard begins to notice that Nasrudin is looking wealthier and better dressed. Yet no matter how hard he searches, he cannot find what he is smuggling.

Many years later when they are both old men, long after they have retired, the guard bumps into Nasrudin in the market place.

"OK Nasrudin," says the guard, "you can tell me now! Just what was it you were smuggling all those years?" "Donkeys" says Nasrudin.

Steve

Lunch on 30th October will be Liver and Bacon with Onion Gravy or Fish and Chips.

Lunch on 28th November will be Roast Pork with Apple Sauce or Fish and Chips

Speaker's Report

This month, we have Bob Ogle, author of more than twenty books and he will be talking to us about "Biggin on the Bump". We will hear detail of the men, the women, the machines and the indomitable spirit of all those drawn into conflict from 1916 to 1945 and beyond, told through the story of RAF Biggin Hill, the most famous fighter station in the world.

In November, we have Cheryl Vernon from Foal Farm telling us the story of how it all came about from small start with one animal to the large concern it is now. FOAL farm has been rescuing and rehoming neglected animals in and around Kent for more than sixty years.

I hope you can join us for both talks.

Steve