



# Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

## NEWSLETTER - February 2025

Our speaker on 27th February is Keith Whitnell whose subject is "The Serial Killer next door and other murders". (please see page 4)

*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 Ramblings

I am very pleased to report that, following a cataract removal on my other eye after Christmas, I have now received my new prescription glasses. My sight is very much improved as a result.

Jane and I joined other Probus members last week at a performance of "Cabaret at the Kit Kat Club" at the Playhouse Theatre. What a show! We thoroughly enjoyed it and I believe that everyone else did too. Thanks to our Secretary, Phil, for organising this.

It was great to see so many members and guests at the Curry Night on Monday. The food was excellent and a good time was had by all. Thanks to Steve for organising it.

I am looking forward to hearing the talk on "The Serial Killer next door and other murders" at our lunch this week. Hopefully it will not be the stuff of nightmares!

I was pleased to hear at the Committee meeting this morning that we now have good numbers for our Bunny Race Night on 15<sup>th</sup> March. If you haven't told us you are coming, your last chance to sign up is at this week's lunch.

As always, a reminder that my swansong, the Chairman's Dinner, will be held at Dartford Football Club on **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025**. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

Finally, I will leave you with this:

### Chairman's Ramblings Continued

An old man is lying on his death bed with his wife at his side. They have three children but the last one, Steve, looks nothing like the first two, so he was always suspicious. The old man looks at his wife and says: "Darling, it really doesn't matter now, but I need to know. Is Steve my son?" His wife smiles and says: "I swear to you, he is your son". The old man then dies peacefully. Then his wife says: "thank God he didn't ask about the first two".

### Keith

*Just to remind you our chairman's charities are:*



## **Social Committee Report**

The outing to see 'Cabaret at the Cotton Club' at the Playhouse Theatre, was a great success enjoyed by all. We will be holding another later in the year possibly to see "The Great Gatsby"

Twenty-six enjoyed the "Curry Night" at Royal Radhuny and we will be holding another in May.

The "Race Night:" will be at Whiteoak on **Saturday, 15 March 2025**, £15 pp entrance **fee payable in advance**. The menu choices is Chicken Goujons or Scampi. Please let me know if you would like to come along. All proceeds are going to our Chairman's Charities this year which are "Breast Cancer Kent" and the "Mustard Seed Project".

The Annual Dinner is booked at Princes Park on **Saturday, 29 March 2025**, Sarah Barker, has been rebooked to entertain us after our meal. A Flyer has been sent out, please let me know if you are coming and your menu choices.

Spring Break to The Royal York and Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth. Bookings are being received, 34 members so far. Closing date for bookings is **Friday, 28 February 2025**. Please contact me by email : [colin.very@sky.com](mailto:colin.very@sky.com) or 07962 885244.

The "Ceremony of the Keys" on **Monday, 7 April 2025**, is now fully booked. More details will be sent to those attending shortly.

This year's Autumn Break is to Judds Folly Hotel in Faversham. You have all been circulated and please let me know if you are going to come.

An "Autumn" event is going ahead on the **Saturday, 18 October 2025** at Dartford Golf Club. A flyer is being prepared and will be sent out in due course. Cost is £48.00 pp and an excellent menu choice is on offer.

We have issued an updated plan for 2025 to reflect changes to our schedule.

**Colin**

## **Birthdays**

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

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



## Walks Report

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, all being well and weather permitting , we will be meeting at the Plough, Wilmington, at 11am for a nice walk around the fields behind the village and towards Hawley village.

There are some lovely views across fields and it will be a chance for the villagers to help keep the footpaths open! It's pretty much flat with just some gentle inclines.

Pat and I walked on Saturday 22nd after the heavy rain and found it to be slippery and muddy! So if it's been dry for a few days, we will do the walk and have lunch at the Plough at 12.30. If it's been wet, we may walk around Five Arches instead which is normally pretty solid even after a lot of rain, followed by lunch at the Plough! I will keep you all informed closer to the day!

**Phil**

## Theatre Outing

I've asked for tickets and prices for 'The Great Gatsby', a new production opening in April at the London Coliseum. The date I've asked for is the matinee on 12<sup>th</sup> June. If you are interested, please can you let me know. At the moment I haven't got a price, so I will not hold you to buying tickets if you decide it's too much. I'm just need a idea of how many would like to come.

**Phil**

## The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		1513
General Funds		558
Pending Payment:		2445
Contingency Fund		1590
<b>Balance held in Cash or in Bank</b>		<b>6106</b>

The Chairman's Charity remains at £1513 and the Contingency Fund now stands at £1590.

Funds pending payment consists of £720 for the forthcoming Chairman's Dinner, £285 for the Race Night and £1890 for the Spring Break 2025, These amounts are offset by residual deposits paid for the October Dinner and Dance and the Autumn Get Away totaling £450.

The General Funds held are adequate for our use

**Derek**

## Club Membership Report

After last month being able to welcome two new members (namely Ken Baker & Richard Wells) to our club, this month is welcome news that David Rimmer will be coming again as guest of Joe Irwin.

During the last year or so we have been fortunate in attracting new members which has boosted membership back to where it used to be some 10 years ago. Although we were fortunate not to lose anyone to Covid, it was two years without any membership growth, which followed on from a few years of membership numbers very slowly depleting.

Although I am aware of two members needing 'medical referrals' the good news is I have not been made aware of anyone needing an 'authorised sick note' (so to speak!).

Everyone, please keep well, BUT, please remember you are presumed to be coming to the monthly lunches unless you cancel on or before the deadline of the previous Tuesday midday, otherwise the club will be charged for that missing that lost meal. Cancellations to Phil Burt.

**Ed Holbrook** Membership Secretary. 01322 863130 or e-mail: Ed.holbrook@icloud.com

Last Wednesday, a passenger in a Taxi heading for Bromley leaned over to speak to the driver and gently tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed; lost control of the cab; nearly hit a bus; drove up over the kerb and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments everything was silent. Then, the shaking driver said "are you OK? I'm so sorry but you scared the daylights out of me"

The badly shaken passenger apologized and said "I didn't realize that a mere tap on the shoulder would startle someone so badly. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm the one who is sorry, it's entirely my fault. Today is my very first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years!"

Thanks to Andrew Dunk for this news story

## Speaker's Report

Our speaker this month is Keith Whitnell and his subject is "The serial killer next door and other murders". Keith holds a BA(Hons) in Medieval and Modern history from the University of Kent. He grew up in Gravesend and is a retired Detective Constable having served for 34 years with Kent Police.

In March the speaker will be Tony Harris and his talk is entitled "My Life as a Film Star". He comes well recommended by one of our own members, so fingers crossed.

**Andrew**

*Lunch on 27th February will be Kentish Steak braised in Ale or Fish and Chips.*

*The next lunch will be on 27th March and will be Pan fried Chicken with Baby Onions and Pancetta or Fish and Chips.*