



# Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

## NEWSLETTER - May 2025

*Our speaker on 29th May is Katie Hook from Demelza House who will be speaking about the work of one of David's chosen charities.*

*Lunch is Baked Cod with herb crust and Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Lasagna, followed by a choice of puddings.*

### **Chairman's Welcome**

I have pleasure in welcoming you to the first lunch meeting under my chairmanship. I hope that if/when I err you will remember that the man who never made a mistake never made anything. This year's committee may seem to have many "same old faces" but responsibilities have been changed so I hope you will support the officers of the Club in their new roles.

I'm afraid that was unable to join the Spring Break in Devon but I understand that it went extremely well and that a great time was enjoyed by one and all. Many thanks to Colin, not quite his swan song, as he has set up our autumn break later this year.

The curry night at Royal Radhuny on 12<sup>th</sup> May saw 23 of us enjoy tasty and filling specialities. We are hugely grateful to Steve for organising the event and I hope that you enjoyed it as much as I did.

Today's speaker is from one of my charities, The Delmelza Hospice, one of the first Hospice's especially for children. My other charity, Foal Farm is an animal rescue centre in Biggin Hill. We have a visit and guided tour planned for the second week in August which will be "drive yourself." Some members may find that a problem so if any members who would like to go and have spare seats, perhaps we could arrange lifts.

The Chairman's Summer Lunch this year will be on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> July (our regular meeting date).—>

### **Welcome Continued**

Remember that wives, partners and guests are welcome, dress code will be colourful. Please put the date in your diary. We will be entertained by Jessica Wright, recently on the West End stage who will be singing a medley of songs which I hope you will recognise and enjoy.

The Wilmington Fete on August 25th is one of our major sources of charitable funds but we are short of members to staff our stall, I would ask you to consider supporting the Club by giving some time on the day to manning the pitch. We will have a board available for volunteers at today's meeting.

With the current weather making us think of Summer and with holidays in mind I wish you all a very pleasant summer be it in the UK or an exotic hot spot. Stay safe.

**David**



## Social Committee Report

Colin's final event is our "Autumn Break", and he has booked Judds Folly Hotel in Faversham for the **9th October**. You have all been circulated, please let Colin know if you are going to come, so far 24 have booked in.

An "Autumn" event is going ahead on the **Saturday, 18 October** at Dartford Golf Club. A flyer is now available and will be sent out in due course. Cost is £48.00 pp and an excellent menu choice is on offer. Contact Steve Brown for details.

### The Spring Break 2025 to Sidmouth

On Monday the 28th April thirty-three of us set off to Sidmouth. The journey was uneventful even though we were on the M25!

We stopped at the Sun Inn in Dummer for our lunch and arrived in Sidmouth later in the afternoon. The Royal York & Faulkner Hotel was our base for the week, on the esplanade overlooking the sea. The weather had by this time "warmed up". Sidmouth is an unspoilt town, no shopping malls and an old fashioned High Street and even a department store.

Tuesday we set off to Lyme Regis to visit the "Town Mill", a 12th century water mill now restored as a visitor centre. The water wheel was fully restored in 2000 and the mill is once again operational. We were treated to a private tour by two of the "millers" and we saw the whole process from grain to flour. Others partook of the micro brewery on site while some explored further afield. We returned to the Hotel late afternoon.



Wednesday we went to Topsham via some very interesting roads, finally arriving at the quay to board Stuart Line Cruises and a trip down the Exe to Exmouth. We spent the afternoon in Exmouth for liquid refreshment and a snack lunch. We only needed light lunch, as the hotel gave us a full English and 5 course meal in the evening!

Thursday we boarded our own ex London Tram to go down to Seaton. The driver was full of very interesting information. We all found a lunch in Seaton and then met up to go to Pecorama for the afternoon. This is the Factory of Pritchard Patient Products (PECO) manufacturing all manner of items for model railways. The gardens are expansive and have miniature railway running around, which we all rode on.

Sadly on Friday we set off home with a lunch stop in Salisbury. We all enjoyed this holiday, my word the weather was with us and we hope that this will not be the last one.

Colin.



## Walks Report

Seven people, including John Symes, met at Darenth Park for a nice 2 mile wander admiring the views over the M25 and A2 junction and beyond and through some lovely woodland. We had glorious weather and everyone found it very interesting as several didn't even know the park existed!. Afterwards we adjourned to the Chequers pub for a lovely outdoor meal where 2 more joined us.

Phil

## Birthdays

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

Ian Armitt, Phil Burt, Les Fish, Roy Freeman,  
Ed Holbrook, Tom Rand, Keith Turner and Richard Wells



The trilby said to the cap stay here. I am going on ahead .

Notice on a footpath. FOOTPATH CLOSED TO PUBLIC. ACCESS FOR TEN ANTS ONLY.

The Indian Airforce dropped 500g of samosas and 250g of pakoras on Pakistan, just for starters.

Thanks to David V for these funnies

*Lunch on 29th May will be Baked Cod with herb crust with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Lasagna*

*The next lunch will be on 26th June and will be Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding or Fish and Chips*

## The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		16
General Funds		934
Pending Payment:		450
Contingency Fund		1620
<b>Balance held in Cash or in Bank</b>		<b>3020</b>

Previous Chairman's Charity funds have been distributed and the new financial year commences with donation of £40 less payment of £24 for the Wilmington Fair pitches. Funds pending payment consists of, £650 for the Autumn Get Away minus £200, being the residue of the deposit paid for the October Dinner and Dance.

Derek

## Club Membership Report

We have had our first meeting of the new committee which is as follows:

Chairman..... David Viggers.

Vice chairman ..... to be hopefully elected at our May luncheon (see below).

Secretary..... Phil Burt.

Treasurer..... Ian Armitt.

Speaker secretary..... Steve Brown (also newsletter editor)

Social secretary..... Keith Turner.

Membership secretary. Ed Holbrook

None 'portfolio' committee members Keith Cass, Colin Verry & Jack Swift.

There is still at least one vacancy on the committee. After many years of service, Andrew Dunk, who served in a number of positions has left the committee. He will be missed. Colin Verry has, after many years, stood down from Social secretary position to take a well-earned rest, but remains on the committee so his valuable experience can be 'tapped into' if required. Although the Vice Chair position is shown as vacant, the committee is pleased to report that Maurice Tilley has come forward so will hopefully be elected by members at our May luncheon.

Although not a committee position, we need two members to share the job of 'lunch monitors' (take the money etc!). David Viggers & Keith Turner had been facilitating this post, but, with their new positions on the committee this is no longer possible. Phil Burt will provide the necessary training.

A final reminder to any members who have not yet renewed their Probus Annual membership and their annual Bowls Club Social Membership, which covers our use of the club premises, except for bowling. These are now overdue. I understand the Bowls Club new membership cards are now ready.

Our own club members handbook for 2025/2026 are in hand and should be ready for our June lunch date.

**DON'T FORGET EVERYONE, PHONE ANDREW DUNK (this month only) BEFORE MIDDAY TUES IF YOU CANNOT MAKE THE MAY LUNCH DATE OR WANT TO CHANGE YOUR FOOD CHOICE.**

## Speaker's Report

Our Speaker this month is Katie Hook from Demelza House which is one of our Chairman's selected Charities. Katie is Area Fundraising Officer from the children's hospice and she will give us an update on their activities and how they serve the local community from their two hospices in Sittingbourne and Eltham.

In June, our Speaker will be 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"

**Steve**