



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - September 2023

Our Speaker on 28th September will be Ian Armitt and his subject is:
"A Taxing Time".

Lunch is Chicken Breast with leek and wild mushrooms, potatoes
and vegetables or Fish and Chips

Chairman's Welcome

We had a very successful result from the Wilmington Summer Fete, in that we raised £916 towards our charities. However, it was disappointing that only 10 members attended the Fete to support our Probus Club out of a membership of over 42. Nevertheless, we had a thoroughly enjoyable day, the weather was on our side and I have never seen it so busy. Special thanks must go to Fran and Andrew Dunk who purchased all the prizes, labelled and ran the Tombola stall themselves.

We have a fantastic new large gazebo, sourced by Phil Burt, which has replaced the two smaller ones we used to tie together for our hospitality tent. It worked so well that we are considering buying a second larger one to simplify the front of our pitch which currently has two small gazebos tied together, one of which is broken.

While we were promoting our 'barrow of booze' the chairperson of our Parish Council Cllr Stacey Brown approached us and said she had some spare bottles and promptly left and returned with her barrow of booze and donated it to the club. Our secretary and myself have both written to express our gratitude.

Our speaker on Thursday 31st August was Melanie Gibson-Barton who spoke about the life and times of Edith Cavell. It was a fascinating talk about an astonishing woman. Melanie's presentation was very professional and her knowledge of names and dates with no notes was incredible.

Continued —>>

Chairman's Welcome contd.

At the meeting on the 31st August I also had the privilege of welcoming our newest member to the club, Gary Mullins who was introduced by Joe Irwin.

On Wednesday 6th September we had a very enjoyable and successful coffee morning at The Plough, with many members bringing guests and friends, and it was lovely that our regular ladies joined us. The conversation flowed before some had to leave but 12 of us stayed on for a very enjoyable lunch.

And finally, Sir Alec Rose's yacht Lively Lady, (one of my charities) spent the weekend of 9th/10th September in St Katharine's Dock at Tower Bridge as a part of the Classic Boat Festival. The team won a certificate for the Best Dressed Crew, beating the Royal Navy who were there with their training ship HMS Dasher!

Jack

Supporting
mnda
motor neurone disease
association



Social Committee Report

Autumn Break 2023

The Brickwall at Seddlescombe, now has 13 rooms booked with an additional room having to be handed back.

Spring Break 2024

We are going to Great Yarmouth, on 6th May 2024 staying at "The Imperial Hotel" which is on the sea front opposite the "Venetian Waterways" I have sent out more information and 21 have booked in so far. If you would like to join us, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.

Chairman's Dinner and Dance:

There are now 64 people booked into this event on Friday, 20 October 2023. A flyer with the menu has been sent to you all. Please let either PHIL or STEVE know menu choices and pay Derek as soon as you can please. We have been given some raffle prizes for this event by Parish Cllr. Stacey Brown. Steve has also obtained a few prizes so we will let you know on 28th September if we need anything else.

Christmas Lunch:

Planned for Monday, 4 December 2023, and to be held at the Whiteoak Bowls Centre.

Social Events:

Trip to the Greyhounds "Saturday Brunch" on Saturday 4th November. We have 18 booked so far.

Quiz Night - This is now confirmed to be on Friday, 17 November 2023.

The next coffee morning will be held at The Plough on 10th January 2024 having been moved from 6th December because it would have been only two days after the Christmas Lunch

Colin/Steve

Blond Joke

Two American tourists were travelling through Wales. As they approached Pwllheli they started arguing about the pronunciation of the town's name until they stopped for lunch. As they stood at the counter, they asked the blonde employee, "Could you settle an argument for us? Would you please pronounce where we are very slowly?" She leaned over the counter and said, "Burrrrrr Gurrrrrrr Kingggggg."

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Birthday in
September and October

Keith Cass, David Mason, Steve Brown

Gary Mullins, Eric Hookins, Peter Spurin, John Symes

and Jimmie Winterflood



Walks Information from Roy

September's walk, led by Steve Brown, on the 13th started at the White Cross Inn, North Cray, recently refurbished and improved from previous visits attracted only 6 walkers, very disappointing! However, the day was very pleasant, weatherwise and the walking fairly level. Steve led us through Footh Cray Meadows along the banks of the Cray River to Five Arch Bridge where we crossed and continued along the other bank. This path forms part of the London Loop which joins green spaces from Erith to the West London.

We turned to walk slightly uphill through the Lime Walk to a tourist centre which is manned by volunteers at weekends. Fortunately Steve is a member and has keys – it is normally kept locked. We spent some time here as there was a fascinating collection of photos and maps, old and new, showing the history of the Meadows and the work of the volunteers. Steve then took us to the ruins of Footh Cray Place and pointed out various features, no longer existing except the foundations etc. Walking back through North Cray Woods and the nature reserve parallel to the river found us at the children's play area and adult exercise area. Of course some had to have a go and nearly collapsed on the machines! Phil even managed to get his tall frame on the zip wire, although he did walk a little funny afterwards!

We returned across the river to arrive back around 12 noon for welcome refreshment. Five walkers sat down to lunch and were joined by another four.

The next walk on 11 October will be led by Phil Burt (assuming he is walking OK after the zip wire experience)

On Wednesday October 11th we shall leave the public car park at Otford (£1 per 3 hours) opposite the Bull pub (puts.honest.sleepy) at 10.30am. There are several options for coffee in the village if you fancy a nice drink before we start! The walk is mostly on level pathways with just one short incline and no styles! We pass through open fields and some woodland and along a gently flowing stream and there are some lovely views.

We should arrive back at the carpark about 12.15 ready for our booking at The Bull at 12.30pm.

It would be lovely to see some of our newer members coming on the walk as it's a great way to socialise with other members!

Please let Phil know by Monday evening 9th October if you are coming on the walk or just coming for lunch.

DIRECTIONS.

Leave Wilmington passing The Plough and St Michael's to Hawley Road. Turn right and follow this road (A225) to the main roundabout and take first left. Continue for a short while then turn right towards Otford still A225. Continue into Otford and take the second exit on the roundabout . The car park is on the right. Address for Sat Nav = TN14 5PG. Distance to pub from Wilmington 11.2 miles.

Roy

Report from Probus November 2006 Newsletter

Walks– John Strachan reports that he had good support for his recent walk around Trottscliffe with 21 walkers and a further 8 joining them for lunch. What happened?

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		1676
General Funds		199
Pending Payment:		1485
Contingency Fund		1791
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		5151

The Chairman's charities are faring nicely following the fundraising at the Wilmington Fete. Funds pending payment include amounts for the October Dinner & Dance (£1806) and after deducting the net deposits made for the second visit to Crayford Dogs (£21) and the 2024 Spring Break (£300).

Derek

Joke from February 2008 Newsletter

A firms top salesman sold a refrigerator to an Inuit

Calling back 6 months later, he asked the Inuit how he was getting on with his purchase' "Oh, OK." he replied, "The only problem I'm having is chopping up the ice into little squares to fit into the ice tray".

Awkward British Problems

Turning down a cup of tea for no reason and instantly knowing you've made a terrible, terrible mistake.

Suddenly remembering your tea and necking it like a massive lukewarm shot.

Being sure to start touching your bag 15 minutes before the station, so the person in the aisle seat is fully prepared for your exit.

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 September is our Ian Armitt and his subject is "A Taxing Time".

Our speaker on 26th October is our Roy Freeman and his subject is "Doings during lockdown.

Please join us for both lunches. **Andrew**