



# Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

## NEWSLETTER - November 2024



Our speaker on 28th November is our Gary Mullins and his subject is:

*"My Career and Luck"* (please see page 4)

*Lunch is Roast Tenderloin of Pork in a herb crust with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips, followed by a choice of puddings.*

### Chairman's Ramblings

Unfortunately, I was unable to get to the Committee meeting this week as I was undergoing an operation to remove a cataract from my right eye. My grateful thanks to David Viggers, our new Vice Chairman, for standing in for me. Sorry David, I did not intend that your baptism would be so soon!

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. Details, plus menu choices, will be circulated by Colin after Christmas.

I was very pleased to see that the Chairman's Charity Fund is now over £1300. On behalf of my charities, Mustard Seed Project (Kenya) and Breast Cancer Kent, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.

I am looking forward to hearing the talk on "My Career and Luck" by Gary Mullins at our lunch next week. My grateful thanks to Jack Swift for offering to come and pick me up that day if I still cannot drive after my recent surgery. Let's "see" how things go Jack!

Finally, I will leave you with this:

*Swedish Astronomer Anders Celsius died in 1744 aged 73, although his arch rival, Fahrenheit, was convinced he was 109.*

**Keith**

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



### Flying Jokes

The pilot had really banged the plane onto the runway and was dreading having to stand at the door and thank the passengers as they exited.

He was certain someone would have a comment, but no one did. He started to relax when everyone had gotten off except a little, old lady with a walking frame. But when she finally made it up the aisle, she stopped and asked, "Did we land or were we shot down?"



As a plane was flying it started shaking very badly and soon the pilot got on and announced I'm very sorry folks but we have just lost power to one of our engines we are going to try and restart it, please remain calm .. a terrified man shouts out please tell us how far will one engine get us ? Pilot pauses then answers the man, "All the way to the crash site. "



About half way between London and Paris on Christmas Eve the pilot came on the PA with an announcement:

"Ladies, Gentlemen and especially children: I've just seen Santa and his reindeer pass by our aircraft and wave to me, if the children will look out your windows now you might still get to see him."

I'm not a child but I still looked.

Thanks to Jack Swift for these stories

## **Social Committee Report**

The “Coffee Morning” new format was a success, 13 arrived and enjoyed a sociable lunch together. They will now be advertised as a “Social Lunch” and the next one is **Wednesday, 8 January 2025**. If you would like to join us let me know by email after Christmas.

Quiz Night: 37 were booked in and 34 attended and as expected it was very taxing but great fun.

Further to our enjoyable trip to see “Les Mis” last month, Phil has booked 30 tickets to see ‘Cabaret at the Cotton Club’ at the Playhouse Theatre, **Wednesday, 12 February 2025**. The production is in the ‘round’. He has £100 tickets reduced to £75 each in the dress circle, of which 8 are still available. Please contact Phil if you would like to go.

Christmas Lunch - 52 booked in. A Saxophone Quartet will play musical accompaniment before the meal. We will also be holding a Raffle, please bring Prizes with you to the event. Details of the location and the “password” to escape after will be sent out shortly.

Social Event planned for February has now been moved to the **Saturday, 15 March 2025**, more details later.

The Annual Dinner is booked at Princes Park on **Saturday, 29 March 2025** and Sarah Barker will entertain us afterwards. More details after Christmas.

Spring Break to The Royal York and Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth. A Flyer has been sent out and bookings are being received, 30 members so far. The closing date for bookings is **Sunday, 15 December 2024**.

The “Ceremony of the Keys” has been rescheduled to **Monday, 7 April 2025**, and a board will be circulated early next year.

Outings are being looked at for next year.

I will be issuing an updated plan for 2025 in the next few days

**Colin**



**A Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year to you all**

## **Birthdays**

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

John Longstaff, Peter Marsh, Les Robus, Michael Iveson

Derek Putman, Gwyn Pritchard, Maurice Tilley,

John Strachan, and Clive West



## Walks Report

There is no walk in December but January's walk is from Birchwood Golf club on Wednesday 13th meeting at 10.00am. The walk is about 2.5 miles (according to O/S maps!). It covers some ancient footpaths and woodland with some lovely views over undulating countryside. This is the walk that was cancelled last month.

We will be eating at Birchwood Golf club for 12.30 pm. We don't need to preorder if our numbers are under 12, so I need to know by lunch time Monday 11th November, if you are walking and staying for lunch or just having lunch.

**Phil**

## Theatre Outing

*Our next theatre trip is to see 'Cabaret at the Cotton Club'. It is at the Playhouse theatre very close to Charing Cross Station. They have created the feel of being at the Cotton Club and suggest arriving up to an hour early for drinks or food! The performance is on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2pm, we already have 24 going but I still have 6 tickets left. They should be £100 each but we have them at a discounted rate of £75 each and are in the Dress Circle.*

*If you would like to come along, please contact me as soon as possible.*

**Phil**

I just want to say a huge thank you to all **Newsletter contributors** this month and every month for providing the news, reports, articles and jokes that we publish every month. Although some months are a bit of a challenge with reports arriving late (you know who you are), it is still a very enjoyable role and hopefully you all enjoy the result. Happy Christmas to everyone. **Steve**

## The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		1308
General Funds		572
Pending Payment:		5410
Contingency Fund		1700
<b>Balance held in Cash or in Bank</b>		<b>8990</b>

The Christmas Greetings fundraising has reached £275 so far to enhance the Chairman's Charity total to £1308. Funds pending consist of: £1660 for the Christmas Lunch, £2100 for the Spring Break 2025 and £1650 for the Cabaret theatre outing.

**Derek**

## **Club Membership Report**

As Membership Secretary I try to keep in contact by telephone with members who are no longer able to visit on club lunch days, usually because they have moved away but still want to retain contact with the club, or, are members who cannot join us on lunch days due to illness. Every member is sent a copy of our monthly newsletter, kindly put together by Steve Brown on the last Sunday before each lunch day (excluding December) and distributed later the same day by Phil Burt via the internet. This one is therefore the club's last newsletter for 2024.

At this month's lunch next Thursday, the committee are pleased to be able to welcome Ken Baker as a new club member. At our January 2025 lunch we will also hopefully be able to welcome Richard Wells as a new member. Since the Covid lockdown finished we have been fortunate to welcome no less than 12 new members, which has brought our numbers back close to where they were some 10 years ago. Being a club for retired persons, sadly we need to average 2 new members every year. Both Tom Rand (who moved to Surrey last year to be near his daughter) and Jimmy Winterflood are keeping well, but, unfortunately, both have given up driving. They both wish to be remembered to everyone.

Alas, Monica, Jimmy's wife, is not enjoying the good health she used to. As we are unlikely to see either Bernard Nash, who lost his wife recently, or Les Fish who now finds it difficult to attend our monthly lunches, the Committee wish them a very Happy Christmas. Similar wishes are extended to Clive West who has just had more surgery and is now recovering at home. We also wish him a speedy recovery.

Finally, to all members, have an enjoyable Christmas & every success for 2025,

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

## **Speaker's Report**

Our speaker this month is our very own Garry Mullins who will be telling us about his time as a news cameraman with ITN in his talk entitled "My Career and Luck". With no speaker needed in December, the next speaker after Gary will be Adam Taylor in January. He will be talking to us about the Islands of the Medway Estuary.

I have mentioned before how much we enjoy hearing from our own members and I am delighted that another two members have volunteered to give talks later next year - more news about their subjects in due course. In the meantime, if anyone has either heard, or heard of, a good speaker then please let me know. A personal recommendation is always so much better than me just picking someone from a list of possible speakers.  
Many thanks.

**Andrew**

Lunch on 28th November will be Roast tenderloin Pork in herb crust or Fish and Chips.

The next Lunch will be the Chairman's Christmas Lunch on 2nd December.