



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - July 2025

Our luncheon this month has been replaced by the Chairman's Summer Lunch. We are offering a buffet which will include Gammon, Chicken, Ham etc. We also have a musical theatre performer and singer Jessica Wright who will entertain us.

The dress code for the lunch is " **Colourful** "

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our July "Chairman's Lunch" meeting. In accordance with tradition, a buffet with entertainment, a theme (this year "colourful") and an opportunity to invite partners as well as prospective members. I hope that you enjoy the performance by, showing my age, the daughter of one of my wife's former pupils. The start time is the same as a normal member's luncheon that is 12.30 for 1.00pm.

There have been years when we have complained about wet English summers, holiday abroad to guarantee sun was the cry. This year has shown that the other side of the fence is not always better and certainly not greener. I hope that you have found ways of enjoying the fine weather and that your gardens will recover.

I regret that last month's invitation to join the Club committee short of raising a flood of applicants, struggled to achieve a trickle. In a way I understand, I spent my first ten years as a member enjoying what was provided and seeing the committee as efficient, well established and yes, perhaps something of a coterie. Feeling guilty that I had only contributed my attendance I volunteered for the committee; the only commitment is 11 committee meetings a year, 10am at Whiteoaks on a Wednesday. Surely there are members who have the necessary ideas, experience and expertise to help guide the Club forward. The long serving office holders would be only too happy to give guidance and support to new recruits.

I only have 8 members who wish to join the proposed visit to Foal Farm (albeit with guests) on Wednesday 13th August. I feel that to be fair to the Charity, unless there are a few more takers we should consider pulling the event.

Continued—>

Welcome Continued

It's self-drive to Jail Lane Biggin Hill, meet in the car park at 14.15 for the start of a guided tour commencing at 14.30. If transport is a problem speak to a committee member and we may be able to arrange a lift.

We are now well into planning for the Wilmington Fete on August 25th (one of our major sources of funds for our charities). In addition to erecting and removing our gazebos we need to maintain a presence of at least four members throughout the afternoon. Many thanks to those who have already volunteered their time. Many of you may have other stalls which are seeking your support; however, we do need members to staff ours. My thanks to those of you who have already volunteered. Please consider if you could support the Club by giving some time on the day. We are also happy to receive donations for the barrel of booze either in cash or kind.

My best wishes, enjoy your lunch.

David



Social Committee Report

Thursday 31st July Booking is still open for the Chairman's Summer Lunch (this is our regular meeting date), wives, partners, friends are all welcome at £30 each. Dress code is colourful and we are being entertained by Jessica Wright.

There is a line in the musical Calamity Jane when Jane, when introducing Katie Brown, says we don't import entertainers we grow our own. Our lunch in July will follow this precept,

Jessica Wright is Wilmington through and through. She is a Musical theatre performer who has performed in many shows both across the UK and internationally. She made her West End debut at the age of 12 in 'Billy Elliot the Musical' playing 'Susan Parks', and has most recently performed in 'Hello Dolly' at Théâtre du Lido in Paris covering the role of 'Minnie Fay'. Other theatre credits include: 'Oklahoma! 80th Anniversary concert' at Theatre Royal Drury Lane, Gladys and 1st cover Anytime Annie in '42nd Street' at Sadler's Wells Theatre, UK tour and Princess of Wales Theatre, Toronto, Lorraine in '42nd Street' at Upstairs at the Gatehouse and Dance captain understudy Beauty in 'Sleeping Beauty' at Buxton Opera House.

Please support the event in good numbers, (and by the way there will be a raffle for charity. Your contributions will be gratefully received.) If you and your partner are coming please advise Phil.

13th August Self drive visit to FOAL farm Biggin Hill arriving at 14.15. 8 booked so far.

25th August The Wilmington Fete takes place and Probus will be running the usual two stalls and are looking for volunteers to help out please.

3rd September A Social Lunch will be held at The Plough, Wilmington starting at 12 noon. Please complete the board if you are planning to attend.

10th September There will be a walk arranged for this day with details to follow.

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

On **Saturday, 18 October** Steve has arranged an Autumn Dinner and Dance at Dartford Golf Club. We have an excellent meal arranged and instead of a live band we have engaged the services of a professional DJ—Billy Morris, who will play all of your favourite sing along dance tunes. A flyer is now available and it includes details of the menu for your selection. The flyer has now been sent out so we look forward to receiving your booking. Dress code is Black Tie or lounge suit and the cost is £48.00 pp. Tickets are selling fast so please contact Steve Brown on 07810 186827 or Phil Burt on 07795 576294 for details and make a booking.

6th November A Social Lunch will be held at The Plough, Wilmington starting at 12 noon. Please complete the board if you are planning to attend.

1st December is the day for our Christmas Lunch. Details will be supplied soon but it is being held at the Dartford Golf Club.

David, Colin and Steve

Walks Report

Six intrepid walkers left Cobham School at 10.30am on Wednesday 9th July. Their mission was to walk to the Mausoleum in Cobham Park and return via Rochester and Cobham Golf Course by 12.30pm.

I am pleased to report their mission was successful and all appeared to enjoy the walk despite the heat, and upon their return enjoyed a convivial lunch with suitable refreshments at the Darnley Arms, Cobham. No other members joined for lunch.

Peter Marsh

Office Joke

I was leaving the office the other day when I found the CEO standing in front of a shredder with a piece of paper.

Listen, he said this is a very sensitive and important document and my secretary has gone for the night. Can you make this thing work for me?

Sure, I said.

I turned the machine on, inserted the paper and pressed the start button.

Excellent! He said as his paper disappeared into the machine, I just need one copy.

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The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		326
General Funds		973
Pending Payment:		
- Autumn Break		800
- Summer Lunch		1080
Contingency Fund		1600
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		4779

Note: £200 deposits paid for Autumn Dinner & Dance to be recovered from ticket sales in due course.

Ian

Secretary's Jottings

Last month, at the luncheon I asked for people to consider helping out with the social secretary job. I did not have a response from anyone.

I did mention that there were holiday companies out there that would 'make a holiday up' to your requirements or you can take one of their 'off the shelf' holidays and change dates etc to suit what we want. All that needs doing then is to drum up support, list the names and with the help of Ian Armitt ensure all have paid, get them on the coach and hey presto – a spring break sorted!

I have been talking to Farleigh Coaches, but they couldn't really do our dates, but there are other local companies that do the same, it just need someone to bite the bullet and do it. I'm sure Colin Verry will be happy to give advice to help steer the person if required.

Phil

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in July and August

Clive Freeland and Kevin Pronger



Chairman's Summer Lunch

Just a reminder that I shall be expecting you at the Summer Lunch on Thursday 12.30 for 1.00pm unless you have told me otherwise. The cost is £30 per head and partners are welcome to join us, but I need to know by Tuesday lunch time. You can pay by bank transfer, which is preferable, (let me and Ian know) or by card and cash on the day.

Phil

*The next lunch will be on 31st July and this will be the Chairman's Summer lunch which is a Buffet.
Lunch on 28th August will be Chicken Breast with leek and wild mushrooms or Fish and Chips*

Speaker's Report

We are holding our annual Chairman's Summer Lunch this month and therefore we have no speaker booked but we do have entertainment, as mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter.

In August our speaker will be our Phil Burt and his subject is "I followed that Dream—Forty Years in the Making". I'm sure you will agree it sounds fascinating!

Steve