



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - April 2024

This week is our AGM and Kathy Betts from Around and Around will accept our cheque from the Chairman's Fund and say a few words about the Charity.

Lunch is hand cut Gammon Steaks with Fried Eggs with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Welcome

At our last meeting I understand that you had a thoroughly interesting talk by our own Keith Cass on 'the mustard seed project' which is a charity that supports a children's school in Kenya. Unfortunately I was not able to attend but I have been reliably informed that it went very well - thank you Keith. I am sure we have many more interesting stories to tell amongst our members.

On 30th March we held our first Saturday event, a Cockney Night, at the Bowls Centre. It was well supported and in true cockney style we enjoyed pie, mash, peas and gravy. Everyone really made a great effort joining in the spirit of 'the best dressed cockney' but the title went to Andrew Dunk. Well done Andrew. The main event was Cockney Knights, a group who gave us a very entertaining evening of traditional songs, jokes and some songs where they used poetic licence and introduced some of their own lyrics. It all made for a hilarious evening's entertainment.

Our coffee morning at the Plough this month was well attended with 12 people dining, this is always an enjoyable event and a great opportunity for everyone to catch up with each other.

On the 19th we held the Chairmans Dinner at

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Chairman's Welcome Continued

Princes Park. Another truly wonderful evening with over 35 attending and singing entertainment from Sarah Barker.

I wish to give you all my very grateful thanks for the support I have had from you during my year, and for your generosity towards my charities and events. I would especially like to thank the committee for all their support and hard work that made my year so very enjoyable.

We have had a wonderful year with membership rising significantly, and I know we can look forward to another successful year with Keith Cass as our new Chairman. I am confident that we will all support Keith with his events and charities.

Jack

Social Committee Report

Our Chairman's Dinner this year was held at Princes Park on Friday, 19 April 2024. This was our farewell to our outgoing Chairman, Jack, to thank him for his year's efforts. Thirty Five of us enjoyed an excellent meal followed by our entertainer Sarah Barker. It was very pleasing to see so many of our newer members there. Thank you to Phil and Pat for the photographic booth. All in all it was a very good evening and I do hope next year we will have a little more support.

Our Spring Break 2024 in the final stages of preparation. Luggage labels etc. will be distributed and then off to Great Yarmouth on the 6th May.

We are planning more events and will be letting you know.

I am very pleased to report that Roy Freeman has taken up the challenge of our Autumn Getaway and he will be in touch with you all soon.

We are really in need of support for the Social Committee as some of us have been "doing it" for a long time. Please if you have the knack of organising social events let us know.

Colin

Spring Nonsense

- I tried to catch the fog, but I mist.
- Been washing my trampoline. Seemed a good time to do some spring cleaning!
- What did the dirt say to the rain? If you keep this up, my name will be mud!
- What do bees wear in the rain? Their yellow jackets.

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		3640
General Funds		310
Pending Payment:		3124
Contingency Fund		1815
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		8889

The Chairman's charity fund is ready for distribution at AGM time. Funds pending payment is £3124 held for the Spring Break, where the coach remains to be paid for,

The membership subscription, together with the joining fee for new members, is raised to £20 for 2024/25. The membership subscription should be paid by 30 June 2024 and will be receipted by the issue of the new club directory

Derek

Last Walks Report from Roy

Peter Marsh led the walk on 10th April from the White Cross Inn, North Cray Rd., Sidcup into Footscray Meadows. Regrettably only 3 walkers turned up but they enjoyed a walk on easy slopes and good paths of about 2.5 miles. The weather was kind and the walk along on the west side of the river Cray through the nature reserve towards Footscray Manor then back across the river to the Inn was only marred by slight muddy areas underfoot.

My hope that someone will come forward to continue this activity for the members and associates of the club has not materialised and I assume, unless the committee decides otherwise, that they will no longer form a monthly activity of the club.

As I mentioned last month and I reiterate that comment here, my grateful thanks go to all those who have led walks over the years that I have been organising them. My gentle encouragement and occasional arm twisting seems to have worked for most of that time and it is a shame that numbers of those walking have dropped from the highs of twenty and more to such small numbers as this last walk. Thank you leaders and also all that took part in the walks and enjoyed the lunches after.

Roy

There are no walks scheduled for the rest of this year unless someone want to come forward please

Notice to All Members

The Committee have requested that everyone attending our luncheon on 25th April should wear a Red Rose for St George's day on 23rd April

A reminder also that subscriptions are due at the next meeting and that it is £20 this year. This can be paid by bank transfer to - Sort code 40-19-04 a/c 81258052
Wilmington Axstane Probus Club (preferable) or by card or cash on the day.

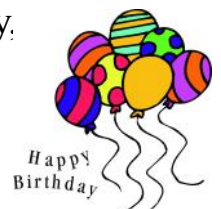
Saint George's Day is celebrated every year in England on 23 April. Say "Happy St. George's Day" to friends and family on England's national day. 23 April also coincides with the birth and death dates of English playwright and poet William Shakespeare.

Birthdays

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

Ian Armitt, Phil Burt, David Cross, Joe Irwin, Peter Onley,

Tom Rand, David Viggers and Howard Wardell



The Committee

As I said last month, we are justifiably proud, at our club, to have a good, full and varied programme of all events. This takes some organising and we still need people to join the team to be able to keep up that high standard. The Committee only meets once a month on the Wednesday of the week preceding the luncheon meeting at 11.00am at the Bowls club, so joining isn't so onerous! This is the situation.

The AGM is set for April 25th and at the AGM, as per the constitution, the whole committee is up for re-election. We have already had nominations for some posts from the existing committee but we are short of some others. So, we need some volunteers please! I have listed here the positions that there are and the ones that need filling and the reason why and any notes appertaining to that position.

Chairman – Keith Cass nominated

Vice Chair – vacant. *The existing vice-chair is becoming Chairman. The job is a good way to learn the Chairs job as you would stand-in if the Chair is unable to attend a function*

Secretary – Phil Burt nominated – *but happy to stand down if you really want to do this job!*

Treasurer – Derek Putman – *Derek would like someone to shadow him and learn the ropes as he intends to retire from the role later on this year or at next year's AGM.*

Social Secretary – Colin Verry has agreed to stand again.

General committee members – *we normally have up to 6. I have had nominations from Jack Swift, Steve Brown and Andrew Dunk. These positions are 'without portfolio' but normally three of them look after minor roles. These 'minor' roles are as follows*

Membership/sickness secretary - Ed Holbrook nominated

Walks secretary – vacant. *Co-ordinates the monthly walk leaders and compiles a short report for each committee meeting and the newsletter. Roy is stepping down after a very long time.*

Speaker secretary – vacant. *Andrew Dunk has speakers organised until next year and has a large selection and data on previous speakers and is happy to assist the new person until they are happy in their new role. He feels that new blood in this role is needed to keep the meeting fresh and interesting.*

So to summarise, we need a Vice Chair, Walks secretary and Speaker secretary for the committee and a future treasurer to learn the job. If you need more information or want to talk about an idea you have, please do not hesitate to call me .

Phil

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 AGM is being held on 25th April and our speaker will be from Jack's charity Around and Around.

Our speaker on 30th May is Andy Richardson and his subject is "Life in the Air did have its Humorous Moments". Lunch will be baked Cod with herb crust or Lasagne.

I hope you can join us for both luncheons. **AD**