



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - June 2024

Our speaker on 27th June is Janie Ramsay and her subject is:

“The Disgraceful Sons of George III ”

Lunch is Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding with Chef’s choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman’s Welcome

To be honest, I don’t have anything to report that will not be covered by others on the Committee. I have not done anything as Chairman, we’ve had no do’s apart from the last lunch, which I wasn’t able to get to, so all quiet on the Chairman front!

We haven’t yet finalised the Chairman’s dinner next year, so I can’t even advertise that!

Keith

Mustard Seed Project continued

They listened as the two young men explained the current situation. Education in Kenya had been free for primary school children since 2003 for those who could afford uniform, stationery, books and afternoon tuition. No new schools had been built and children were in classes of between 80 and 150.

With no clear plan Rita and Geoff knew that they couldn’t walk away when they had skills to offer and promised to return with resources.

Four months on they returned on a fact finding mission. They met with the community to find out what they needed. Their greatest concerns were education, water, health care and jobs and Geoff and Rita promised to help. Mustard Seed Project was born.

The UK trustees spend two months of the year working in Kenya and are unpaid.

The children are very poor but with good food, healthcare and quality education they are achieving excellent academic results allowing them to access secondary education.

The school, owned by the Mustard Seed Project, provides sustainability for the project in the future.

The New Chairman’s Charities

Our new Chairman, Keith Cass is asking for your support for two Charities. This is the first.



In October 2008 Rita and Geoff went on safari to Kenya followed by a week on the Mombasa coast. Rita, a trained nurse, had later trained as a primary school teacher and was keen to see a school. Geoff a Civil Engineer had latterly worked with charities. Preferring to explore the region rather than spend their time on the beach they visited an informal local school in a poor, overcrowded community and were appalled by what they saw.

Two young Kenyan men were trying to run a school for poor children in the most appalling conditions. Two small rooms with mould on the walls, makeshift furniture, some exercise books and pencils and a blackboard were their only resources.

Social Committee Report

Chairman's Summer Lunch: - Thursday, 25 July 2024 at Whiteoak with a fancy dress theme of 'The Wild West'! Partners or should I say 'pardners' are welcome. We have a very entertaining speaker, his talk title is 'The Baby Boom Nostalgia Show'. Please contact Phil if you are going and pay Derek beforehand either by bank transfer, cheque or card (at this month's meeting) but before July 21st. The food will be Leon's excellent summer buffet. **No booking or no pay = no meal!**

Outings: - RHS Wisley Wednesday, 7 August 2024 cost £35 inclusive of entry which is £15pp. If RHS members are coming then the only cost is the coach £20. A Board will be circulated in June luncheon, we do need 30 people to make it viable. We will be leaving Wilmington at approx. 10am returning about 6pm. See additional notes on the last page.

Wilmington Fete: - Board seeking donations for the purchase of the prize for the Barrow of Booze will be circulated at June and July lunch meetings and Raffle Tickets to be sold as well! Help on the day will be needed so please consider spending some time at the fair - it promises to be a great day and Probus provides free drinks!

Autumn Break 2024: - All booked.

Hold the date!!! Quiz Night Friday, 8 November 2024 - Phil will be quizmaster. We will have a Fish & Chip supper.

We have reconsidered the small table layout and whilst it was nice for chatting it has been agreed that we would revert to our horse-shoe layout. The boards do go round much easier. We will not have a Top Table just reserved places for speaker and speaker secretary. Please all draw a number and sit there – this makes for a more interesting meal being able to talk to people who you may not have spoken to before – rather than choosing to sit with your 'mate!

Colin/Phil

Birthdays

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

Les Fish, Roy Freeman, Ed Holbrook, Keith Turner
and Kevin Pronger



Walks Report

The June walk was a pleasant meander for 5 of us around Wilmington village going through the park, across some of the heath, along pathways, across fields and eventually ending up at the Plough where 15 members and partners had a nice meal. It was good to see Ann and David join us for the ending mile or so!

There isn't a walk for July but Andrew will be organising a walk for August 14th and we will have the details next month. If you would like to lead a walk please let me know and I can book you in.

Phil

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		136
General Funds		787
Pending Payment:		678
Contingency Fund		1817
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		3418

The amount included for the Chairman's charities now includes donations and some raffle proceeds made in preparation for the forthcoming Wilmington Fair. General funds are at a healthy level now that most membership fees have been paid. Funds pending payment include those for the Summer Lunch (£468) and the RHS Wisley Outing (£210).

Derek

David Cross

It is with sadness that the loss of David Cross is reported. David, whose wife Brenda died just 29 weeks previously, had been missing her dramatically. He was also suffering heart failure and peacefully passed away after supper on 13th June in Darent Valley Hospital. His funeral will be at Thames View Crematorium, Gravesend Road, Gravesend DA12 3JH on 15th July at 11am. There will be a 'wake' afterwards at Birchwood Golf Club. The Crematorium is on the A226, Rochester Rd.

Please advise Phil Burt if you are planning to participate in Davids 'wake' asap.

Ed

Some Jokes from Gary Mullins

My father was a magician; well not really he just disappeared a lot

I bought an advent calendar from a Jehovah's Witness. Every time I opened a window someone told me to get lost.

I found a chaise longue in a skip. Nothing wrong it just had one arm missing.

My wife told me sex was better on holiday. That wasn't a nice card to receive.

I once had an argument with one of the seven dwarves, he wasn't happy.

Someone asked me what I knew about dwarves "very little I said"

I said to my dentist if he had anything for yellow teeth "what about a brown tie he said"

Additional notes regarding trip to Wisley from David Viggers

I have spoken to the staff at Wisley. Wheelchairs are freely available. Scooters are available but need to be booked. If any member needs to book one, the number is 01483 224234, menu option 2, best to ring in the afternoon. Both scooters and wheelchairs are free.

Speaker's Report

Our speaker this month is Janie Ramsey who will be putting antiques to one side and will be talking to us on the subject of "The Disgraceful Sons of George III".

Lunch on 27th June will be Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding or Fish and Chips.

Our Chairman's Summer Lunch is on 25th July and we have a very special speaker. Alan Haines is an entertainer and his show is "The Baby Boomer Nostalgia Show".

I hope you can join us for both luncheons which should be very interesting and great fun

Andrew

Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the Membership Secretary, Ed Holbrook on 01322 863130 or e-mail:

Ed.holbrook@icloud.com

Your news item or joke could have been printed here.

Please let me have something for the next Newsletter.

Steve