



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - March 2025

Our speaker on 27th March is Tony Harris whose subject is "My Life as a Film Star". (please see page 4)

Lunch is Pan Fried Chicken with Baby Onions and Pancetta with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips, followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Ramblings

I cannot believe that my year as Chairman is coming to an end. It has simply flown by! This month's lunch next week will be my last as Chairman as I will be handing over to my successor in April.

On that note, I have to say that I very much enjoyed the Lunch last month. The food and company were top notch and we were treated to a very interesting and informative talk on "The serial killer next door and other murders" given by Keith Whitnell, a retired Kent Police detective.

I and my party also enjoyed the Bunny Race Night on 15th March. It was a great evening and we are indebted to Steve Brown for organising it. Here's hoping it will not be our last.

I know that lots of you have booked your places for my final event as Chairman - the Dinner at Dartford Football Club on **Saturday 29th March 2025**. I look forward to seeing you all there for what promises to be a very good evening. There will be a raffle, which is the last chance to raise much needed funds for my two charities – the Mustard Seed Project (Kenya) and Breast Cancer Kent. Please bring a prize (or two) and buy lots of tickets!

Finally, I will leave you with this:

A blonde is fed up of being the subject of constant 'blonde jokes', so she decides to dye her hair brunette. A couple of days later she is out for a drive in the country when she meets a farmer driving a flock of sheep down the lane. Jumping out of her car,

Chairman's Ramblings Continued

she exclaims "Oh, what a beautiful flock of sheep you have. If I can guess how many there are, can I have one to take home as a pet?" The farmer, being a bit of a gambling man, says "Yes OK, have a go". After a quick look she says "157". The farmer is amazed that she is right, but says, "Well a bet is a bet, so help yourself". She selects an animal and puts it into her car. The farmer says "Before you go, can we have another bet please?". "All right" she says. So the farmer says "If I guess the true colour of your hair, can I have my dog back?"

Keith

Just to remind you our chairman's charities are:



Social Committee Report

The "Race Night:" was held at Whiteoak on **Saturday, 15 March 2025** and was enjoyed by all.

The Annual Dinner is booked at Princes Park on **Saturday, 29 March 2025** and 43 are attending.

Spring Break to The Royal York and Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth, 35 of us are going. Bookings are now closed and final arrangements are in hand. I hope to add a pick up at the church in Farningham. Full details will be sent to those booked in shortly.

The "Ceremony of the Keys" on **Monday, 7 April 2025**, is now fully booked. More details will be sent to those attending shortly.

We are holding a second "Curry Night" on **Monday, 12 May 2025** at Royal Radhuny, 76 St James Way, Sidcup, DA14 5HF. Please let Steve Brown know if you would like to attend, either by email : steveb41@sky.com or 07810 186827 or get your name on the board on Thursday.

This year's Autumn Break is to Judds Folly Hotel in Faversham. You have all been circulated, please let me know if you are going to come, so far 24 are booked in.

An "Autumn" event is going ahead on the **Saturday, 18 October 2025** at Dartford Golf Club. A flyer is being prepared and will be sent out in due course. Cost is £48.00 pp and an excellent menu choice is on offer.

I have issued an updated plan for 2025 to reflect changes to our schedule.

This is my last report as I will be standing down at the AGM. I have enjoyed my time as your Social Secretary and I hope that you enjoyed our events. Thank you for your support. Keith Turner has taken up the challenge and I hope you will support him.

Colin

Lion!

A man sees a group of people running terrified down the road towards him. The man asks one of them, "What are you all running for?" "A lion has escaped from the zoo!" says a woman in the crowd. "Oh no!" says the man. "Which way is he heading?" "Well, I'll give you a clue," says the woman. "We're not chasing it!"

Birthdays

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

Ken Baker, Paul Butler, Joe Irwin, Peter Onley,
David Viggers and Howard Wardell



Walks Report

A lovely short walk around the fields behind Wilmington was taken by 13 of our members and a dog on March 12th. It was lovely to see Bernard Nash, our oldest member, walking with us and then having a well earned drink at the Plough! Twelve stayed for lunch at the Plough, which lived up to its reputation of good food and beer!

There isn't a walk in April but there will be one in May so watch this space for more details. I'm pleased to say that Peter Marsh will be leading the July walk and he will give out details nearer the time. If you would like to lead a walk, then please let me know and I'll be happy to book a date with you!

Phil

Notice of AGM on 24th April 2025

The April meeting is our AGM and at that meeting the committee stands down and is re-elected so I have to formally ask for members to join the committee.

If you would like to be part of the committee, in any way, please give your name to me. Several members have said that they are standing down from their positions so we have to fill those vacancies.

Phil

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		1858
General Funds		500
Pending Payment:		15735
Contingency Fund		1560
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		19653

The Chairman's Charity has been enhanced by the net takings from the Race Night and now stands at £1858.

Funds pending payment consists of £1600 for the forthcoming Chairman's Dinner, £13985 for the Spring Break 2025, £350 for the Autumn Get Away minus £200 being the residue of the deposits paid for the October Dinner and Dance

Derek

Club Membership Report

This month the club welcomes David Rimmer who, at the time of writing, will be coming for his third time as a guest of Joe Irwin. We will therefore be welcoming David to our club as a full member at our April lunch.

Fortunately, I am unaware of any members in need of medical help, but , I wish to remind members who knew John Symes wife Sara, who recently died, that her funeral service is on Monday 7th April at Gravesend crematorium at 12 midday. Please be sure to advise John if you wish to join with him at the following wake.

Finally, April lunch will be the clubs AGM when our new chairman and committee is appointed for the next 12 months. Anyone wishing to join the committee, in any position, can put their name forward, preferably before lunch day, for election at the meeting.

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

Phoning in Sick

The phone rings in the school office one morning. The secretary answers and a voice says, "I am phoning to let you know that little Jimmy is not well today and won't be able to come into school." "Oh dear," says the secretary. "Who is that speaking?" "This is my father," says the voice.

Lunch on 27th March will be Pan Fried Chicken with Baby Onions and Pancetta with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips.

The next lunch will be on 24th April and will be Hand cut Gammon Steaks with fried egg or Fish and Chips.

Speaker's Report

Our speaker this month is Tony Harris and his subject is "My Life as a Film Star". Tony will be accompanied by his wife who acts as his assistant for his talk. We look forward to welcoming both of them to our lunch meeting on the 27th.

April is our AGM so the next speaker will then be in May when we will be hearing from a representative from Demelza children's hospice. Demelza is one of David Viggers' chosen charities for the coming year.

I am now looking to fill the last two vacant slots for 2025, so more about that in due course.

Andrew