



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - September 2025

*Our speaker on 25th September will be Jo Livingston and her subject will be
"An Architectural Pub Crawl"*

*Lunch is Roast Salmon with asparagus and lemon hollandaise with Chef's choice of
potatoes or Vegetable Lasagne followed by a choice of puddings.*

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our September meeting, My grateful thanks to all those who assisted at, or supported our stall at the Wilmington fete. Takings were a little down but that was in no way due to a lack of effort or enthusiasm.

I hope you have enjoyed the fine summer weather without suffering sunburn or heat stroke. I've avoided those afflictions by largely staying indoors. I now have an un-weeded garden gone to seed but I trust with nothing rank and gross in nature. My intention is to blitz it during the second half of this month.

For those of you with grand children who received their GCSE, A Level or Degree results, my congratulations or commiserations.

We are now past the equinox, evenings are lengthening, mists seem less frequent, gardeners and allotment holders benefit from fruitfulness but may we all experience friendship and feel mellow.

Thanks to the efforts of individual members, we continue to have an ongoing social programme. My thanks to Colin for organising the Autumn break, to Steve Brown for the October dinner and disco and to Roy Freeman for ensuring that there is a Spring Break next year. Also thanks to our hardworking secretary Phil Burt for overseeing the walks, the informal lunch programme and the trip to Top Hat. Full details are in the Social Report.

Continued--->

Welcome Continued

If you have an idea for a social event that you feel that the club members would enjoy please speak to a member of the committee and suggest it.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the Memorial Service for Michael Iveson at 14.30 pm at St Michael's on 3rd October and at the Remembrance Day services at St Michael's at 10.30 am and at the War Memorial at Noon on Sunday 9th November.

You will probably see it elsewhere in the Newsletter but we do need additional committee members, if you value the club and wish it to go forward in strength, please consider volunteering

My best wishes, enjoy your lunch.

David



Social Committee Report

9th October Colin's next event is our "Autumn Break" and he has booked Judds Folly Hotel in Faversham. So far 24 have booked in and the balance of payments have been paid.

Saturday, 18 October Steve has arranged an Autumn Dinner and Dance at Dartford Golf Club. There is a lovely three course meal followed by a disco with music from our youth, to boogie the night away with in our black tie outfits and gorgeous dresses. (Who wears what is up to you!) All for the bargain price of just £48 per person.

If you would like to come, then please pay Ian Armitt £48 per head and let him and Steve know.

If you have already told Steve that you would like to come please ensure that you have paid and booked your menu requirements. The closing date is 4th October and money will not be taken on the door. I'm afraid that anyone who has not paid by that date will not be catered for. Please contact Steve Brown on 07810 186827 or steveb41@sky.com for details and to 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 which is being held at the Dartford Golf Club. We are still waiting for menus and costing but as soon as this is known we will let you know. Steve Brown is organising the event this year and a board will be available at the September Luncheon.

17th December A final reminder that we still have some spare tickets to see a new production of 'Top Hat' at the Elizabeth Halls, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Rd, London SE1 8XX on December 17th at 2pm. The price is £51 each, please let me know as soon as possible if you would like to come along with the 19 that have already said that they are going. It's going to be a great way to start off Christmas!

27th April 2026 The Spring Break in 2026 will be from 27 April to 1 May at Littlecote House which is located on a prestigious Berkshire estate and is one of Warner's most historic locations.

Thanks to all those coming on the break for your speedy responses. The hotel is now booked and deposits paid. There are 40 on the break, which is a great number, but if any more wish to come we will try and add to our booking although it will depend upon the availability of rooms. The coach booking has also been confirmed with Stewart Howe who was very happy that we were using him again. Jane and I are now starting to sort the events during the days we are staying.

The approximate cost of the 4 night break is £492 per person for a double or twin room. £593 per person for a single room. Based on 35 people on the holiday. There are optional extras per room for the entire stay - £60 upgrade to Signature room (this may be more for a single room) - £10 for any special room requests, e.g. walk in shower or room near facilities etc - £30 per person for insurance to cover the booking (this has just been increased by Warners). **These must be notified at the time of booking.**

If you are interested in joining us please contact Roy, preferably by email at aroyfreeman@btopenworld.com or telephone 01474 813231. Please also mention any optional extras. A deposit of £50 per person is required to be paid to our Treasurer.

Colin, Steve, Phil and Roy

Walks Report

Only two people notified me that they were going to attend the walk by the cutoff time on the Monday and so with the threat of rain I cancelled it. I later discovered that other people were going to attend but hadn't told me!

Please notify leaders/organisers of walks, trips events etc of your intentions by the due date, it's only fair to them and the others that have done so! Booking a restaurant often costs a deposit that the organiser has to pay out for! So we need firm figures.

There may be an outing in November arranged by Andrew, so watch this space!

Phil

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in September and October

Keith Cass, Gary Mullins, Steve Brown, John Symes,
Eric Hookins, Peter Spurin, Alf Oakes and Jimmy Winterflood



The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

Autumn Social (1)	£ 1,096.00
Chairman's Charity	£ 1,292.22
Spring Break (2)	£ 1,590.00
Theatre Trip	£ 765.00
Contingency Fund	£ 1,600.00
General Fund	£ 1,227.02
Amount in Bank	£ 7,570.24

(1) Payments received 27 x £48 = £1,296 less deposits paid £200

(2) Payments received £2,000 less deposits paid £410

Please note that due to a technical problem with the Bank the above does not include any payments received from about 24th August to today.

Ian

Membership

I'm pleased to say that Phil Ellerman and Joe Irwin have offered to be stewards from August onwards – my thanks to them! Please be patient with them as they learn the ropes!

If you haven't received your Bowls Club membership card, please let me know so I can chase it.

Phil

Christmas Card Greetings

Steve has agreed to compose a Christmas Card again for this year. If you would like to send a Christmas greeting to all your Probus friends, then please send Steve your words and send Ian a donation via BACS (suitably annotated) that will go into the Chairman's Charity. The closing date for this is 15th November but Steve would like them as soon as possible so that they are ready for distribution at the Chairman's Christmas lunch on 1st December.

Phil

I gave up being a taxi driver, I couldn't stand people talking behind my back.

Spelling mistake: Please use tongues to pick up pastries.

I am free of all prejudice, I hate everyone equally – W.C. Fields.

Modesty is the triumph of mind over flatter..

Thanks to David Viggers for these gems and to Maurice Tilley for this joke --->

I think my wife has started to show the first signs of Alzheimers...

She said she can't remember what she ever saw in me!

Lunch on 25th September will be Roast Salmon with Asparagus or Vegetable Lasagne.

Lunch on 30th October will be Liver and Bacon with Onion Gravy or Fish and Chips.

Speaker's Report

In September we have Jo Livingston taking us on an Architectural Pub Crawl. A look at some of the buildings which could so easily have been demolished but which have been restored and turned into pubs that everyone can enjoy.

In October, we have Bob Ogle, author of more than twenty books and he will be talking to us about "Biggin on the Bump". We will hear detail of the men, the women, the machines and the indomitable spirit of all those drawn into conflict from 1916 to 1945 and beyond, told through the story of RAF Biggin Hill, the most famous fighter station in the world.

I hope you can join us for both talks.

Steve