



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - January 2025

Our speaker on 30th January is Adam Taylor whose subject is "Islands of the Medway Estuary". (please see page 4)

Lunch is Kentish Steak braised in Ale with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips, followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Ramblings

At our November Meeting we had our own Gary Mullins give us a superb talk on his Career and Luck. It was very entertaining with many twists and turns, brilliant.

Our next event was the Christmas Lunch at the Dartford Golf club It was a great turnout, and we enjoyed a fabulous lunch followed by some tasty mince pies.

Our raffle raised a grand total of £215 that goes to my charity's pot, my grateful thanks to you all for your contributions. My charity now stand above £1500 of which I am eternally grateful for your continued generosity.

The wonderful Club Christmas Card was also distributed and our thanks go to Steve Brown for organising it.

Our first event in January was our re-named coffee morning to Social Lunch at The Plough in Wilmington. 14 arrived for lunch, it was a thoroughly enjoyable start to the new year chatting about our Christmas experiences.

Just to remind you our chairman's charities are:



Walks Report

A lovely amble around Birchwood Golf course walking through ancient pathways and then through a delightful mobile home village was partaken by 8 people in January. The weather was kind and dry albeit a bit fresh but as it was just under the 2.5 miles it wasn't a problem!

Lunch taken at the Golf Club and was surprisingly good, quick and not expensive for the 6 people who choose to indulge. There won't be a walk in February but there will be one on March 12th. Details will be in next month's newsletter.

If you have an idea for a gentle meander around the country side followed by lunch in a suitable venue, then please don't hesitate to speak to Phil who is happy to help you organise it.

Phil

Social Committee Report

The Christmas Lunch 2024 - everybody enjoyed the event. The location was excellent. We have booked there again for this year on **Monday, 1 December 2025** but we will negotiate with the chef over the menu.

The "Coffee Morning" new format was a success. 14 arrived and enjoyed a sociable lunch together. They will continue for 2025 as "Social Lunch".

An outing to see 'Cabaret at the Cotton Club' at the Playhouse Theatre, **Wednesday, 12 February 2025**, has been booked. Please note **13.00** arrival time at the Theatre.

We are holding a "Curry Night" on **Monday, 17 February 2025** at Royal Radhuny, 76 Saint 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.

Our "Race Night:" will be at Whiteoak on **Saturday, 15 March 2025**, £15pp entrance fee payable in advance. The menu choices is Chicken Goujons or Scampi. Please let Phil Burt know if you would like to come either by email : phil.burt@ntlworld.com or 07795 576294.

The Annual Dinner is booked at Princes Park on **Saturday, 29 March 2025**. The entertainment , Sarah Barker, has been rebooked, more details shortly.

The Spring Break to The Royal York and Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth. Bookings are being received, 30 members so far. Closing date for bookings is **Friday, 31 January 2025**. Please contact Colin by email : colin.very@sky.com or 07962 885244.

Paddy Cavanagh has booked 20 places to view the "Ceremony of the Keys" on **Monday, 7 April 2025**, more details shortly.

This year's Autumn Break, we have sent requests for costings to several hotels, mainly in Kent and East Sussex. An update on this will follow in due course.

We will issue an updated plan for 2025 to reflect changes to our schedule.

Colin

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in January and February

Ron Armstrong, Paddy Cavanagh, David Cooper,
Tony Duffield, Andrew Dunk, Phil Elliman, Bernard Nash,
Ron Searle, Jack Swift and Colin Verry



Cabaret at the Cotton Club

For those people who are going to this show, I've copied this from the website

ABOUT THE KIT KAT CLUB

The Kit Kat Club has laid siege to the [Playhouse Theatre](#) in London's West End. Performers have infiltrated the premises. Artists have staked their claim. Who knows how long we'll stay, but for now we're enjoying the party. The party at the end of the world.

We encourage you to come early and explore every nook and cranny of what we have to offer. With superb food and drink available and professional performers entertaining you before the main show begins, your experience starts as soon as you walk through the door.

ABOUT THE PROLOGUE

Arrive at the Kit Kat Club at the designated entry time on your ticket for a rich experience that occurs in advance of, and in addition to, the main show.

At every performance, nine professional dancers & musicians perform 'The Prologue' throughout the building and bar areas whilst audience members arrive and explore the nooks and crannies of the Club.

So we encourage you to arrive early and feast your eyes and ears on the happenings you may encounter. Just remember: look, don't touch.

Meat Charcuterie and Vegan Antipasti boxes are available for £20 each and can be preordered.

Our designated ticket entry time is 1pm and the show starts at 2pm, so I will be at the entrance of the Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Ave WC2 5DE from 12.45 with your tickets. The show finishes about 4.45 pm. If you want any more information please Google 'Cabaret at the Cotton Club'.

It promises to be an interesting afternoon! I look forward to seeing you there!

That's all folks!

Phil

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		1513
General Funds		596
Pending Payment:		1820
Contingency Fund		1619
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		5548

Enhanced by the Christmas lunch raffle, the Chairman's Charity has now reached over £1500
Funds pending payment consists solely of the balance held for the Spring Break 2025.

Derek

Club Membership Report

I am very pleased to report that this month we will be welcoming two new members, namely Richard Wells and Ken Baker.

If Ken's name 'rings a bell', he was due to become a new member back in November but an emergency at home at the last minute meant he couldn't come. As our December lunch was our Christmas lunch with members friends and relatives invited, all December club matters are carried over to this forthcoming January lunch.

In December we handed over the 'honorary member certificates' to Les Fish and Peter Onley. In the case of Les, he was able to come to the Christmas lunch so that opportunity was made use of. Peter was unable to come due to his caring duties, so Phil Burt delivered his to him at home. Hopefully we will be able to see both members occasionally.

Clive West has needed further surgery, but, this has gone better than last time and at the time of writing he is hoping to come to our January lunch. I am not aware of any other members who are unwell and keeping our health services in employment!

Everyone, keep well through 2025

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

Speaker's Report

Our speaker this month is Adam Taylor whose subject is "Islands of the Medway Estuary". Adam is a keen canoeist with 15 years' experience of paddling a 14-foot Canadian (open) canoe in many places, including the backcountry of Ontario, the lakes of Finland and Sweden and various beautiful places in the UK. However he says that his heart lies in the islands and marshes of the Medway estuary. His talk should offer a fascinating insight into this particular area.

The speaker in February will be Keith Whitnell and his subject is "The serial killer next door and other murders". Not quite sure what to expect here, but all will be revealed in the fullness of time!

Finally, a big thank you to those members who have provided me with details of possible speakers, all of which I will be keeping on file for future reference.

Andrew

Lunch on 30th January will be Kentish Steak braised in Ale or Fish and Chips.

The next Lunch will be the Chairman's Christmas Lunch on 2nd December.