



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - April 2023

This week is our AGM and Jean Hildrew from Battersea Dogs & Cats Home will accept our cheque from the Chairman's Fund and say a few words about the Charity.

Lunch is Steak and Kidney Pudding or Fish and Chips followed by Chocolate Brownie

Chairman's Welcome

As this is my last report as Chairman I should first of all record that we have lost three members of our club this year. Norman Geary, Malcolm "Mac" Macmillian and Royston Durbidge all of whom are sadly missed. Also, John Strachan lost his wife Angela, a lady who many of us knew and we are very sad to lose, judging by the numbers in the Church on 13th April.

The happy news is that we have one new member joining on Thursday. His name is Ron Searle and I'm sure you will all make him welcome.

In the last three weeks we have had two great events that have helped to raise the Chairman's Charity fund to £3,052. The Greyhound racing on 28th March was great fun with many of us celebrating our winnings including me.

On 14th April we had a good night out at the Annual Chairman's Dinner with excellent food this year and lots of dancing. We also had some wonderful prizes in the raffle, so thanks to everyone who donated and purchased tickets.

So the Luncheon on 27th April is our AGM and my last meeting as Chairman. Jean Hildrew from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home at Brands Hatch will be joining us and she will be bringing her dog "Holly" to meet us, which should be fun! Hope you will be there.

Finally thanks to everyone for your support this year and may I wish Jack our new chairman all the best for the year

Steve Brown

Rib Ticklers

If you turn a canoe over, you can wear it as a hat and it will fit! This is because it's already cap-sized!

My friend went bald 20 years ago. He still keeps his favourite comb in his jacket pocket. He just can't part with it!

When thieves stole Jim's glasses he swore he would track them down. I asked how he would find them without his glasses. He squinted menacingly and said, "I have my contacts!"

To whoever stole my cloning machine—I hope you're very pleased with yourself!

Neither of them knew much about engines. When the car wouldn't start, they opened the bonnet more in hope than anticipation. That's when she saw the bat! It looked up at them and said: "Wow, what a gorgeous couple you make! So handsome! So beautiful!" That's when they knew exactly what the problem was:

Bat flattery!

Thanks to Bernard Nash for these gems

Social Committee Report

The Annual Chairman's Dinner was held Friday, 14 April 2023 at the Princes Park Banqueting Suite and was enjoyed by all. Not as many attended as years before but we still raised £250 for our Chairman's Charity and had a great time.

We will be having a "bespoke visit" to see the workings of Cooling's Nursery, Knockholt on Wednesday, 3 May 2023, full details have been circulated and so far 25 have booked in. Joining instructions will be sent out shortly.

The Annual Spring Break to Lee Wood Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire departs on Sunday, 7 May 2023, 36 are booked in and we are all looking forward to another great holiday.

On Friday, 2 June 2023 we will be holding a Quiz Night, which we postponed from earlier this year after the untimely death of Mac McMillan. Ann McMillan is our Quiz Mistress and believe me her quiz questions will make you all think!! We are going to have Fish & Chips at the mid quiz break and a board is being circulated.

A Coach has been booked for Saturday 2nd September for a trip to the Hop Festival. A Flyer has been circulated and a lunch board at the next meeting.

The Autumn Getaway, this year will be at The Brickwall at Seddlescombe flyers have been sent out with all the details and so far 12 rooms of the 12 reserved have been taken. For those still undecided I really do need an answer by the April lunch meeting to allow me to try to book extra rooms.

Finally I have sent out a revised calendar for the rest of the year so you can see our plans in full, if you did not receive my email or could not open it please let me know.

Colin

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charity		3052
General Funds		54
Pending Payment:		14907
Contingency Fund		<u>1970</u>
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		19983

The Chairman's Charity has topped the £3K mark and the donation will be handed to the Charity at the AGM. Funds pending payment include amounts for the 2023 Spring Break (£14480), the Coolings Outing (£252) the Faversham Hop Festival (£160) and the forthcoming Quiz evening.(£15)

Derek

Walks Information from Roy

Andrew Dunk was to lead the walk on 12 April from the Lullingstone Visitor Centre but yet again the weather had other ideas! Due to a terrible forecast for the day and very few actual walkers, Andrew decided that it would be unsafe to do the walk. That was a very wise decision given the amount of rain and wind experienced around the time the walk would have been ending. I am sure that Andrew will be prepared to lead this walk at another time even if some arm twisting is involved! 10 attended the Malt Shovel for an excellent lunch however.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEXT WALK TAKES PLACE ON WEDNESDAY 24 MAY AND NOT ON THE USUAL 2ND WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH, DUE TO THE SPRING BREAK.

Steve Brown leads on the 24th to circumnavigate the Foots Cray Meadows starting from the White Cross pub on North Cray Rd. Bexley (MR488724, what3words, path.hurry.hats). There is plenty of parking at the pub and Steve has arranged for the pub to be open at 10.00 ready to serve coffee. He has suggested about 10 of us would be interested in coffee. The walk will start at 10.30 and is 2.7 miles long, mainly flat but one or two gentle slopes up and down with a stop at the Information Centre on the Meadows and glorious views of the River Cray. We'll return to the pub around 12.15 pm for lunch. 18-20 places have been booked so please join us. **Those wishing to join for lunch only and/or the walk are asked to let Steve know by 6.00pm on Monday 22 May please.**

Let us hope that the weather will allow us to walk after 2 failed attempts!

Roy

DIRECTIONS From Wilmington High Rd. take Common Lane north to roundabout with Oakfield Lane and turn left and follow Oakfield lane to the roundabout at the junction with Old Bexley Lane (A2018). Turn left and follow the A2018 for 1 mile to reach the roundabout with North Cray Rd (A223). Turn left and follow the A223 for 1.5 miles. Take the exit off the dual carriageway signed to Loring Hall and U-turn on to the northbound carriageway. Continue back towards Old Bexley for 0.5 miles to reach the White Cross pub on the left.

Roy



Jen and Steve presenting the prize to the winning dog and owner at the Wilmington Axstane Probus Stakes.

Secretary's Jottings

Our AGM will be held at the next luncheon meeting. We have had proposed a full compliment of officers but we still do not have anyone to organise the walks. The walks are quite an important part of our calendar and it would be a shame to see them disappear for want of an organiser. We have agreed that the organiser does not have to be a committee member but it would be helpful if they were.

The paperwork for the AGM is being sent out to members via email or posted to those that do not have email.

Phil

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Birthday in

April and May

Peter Onley, David Viggers, Howard Wardell, Ian Armitt,
Phil Burt, David Cross, Phil Moore, Fred Purvis and
Tom Rand



Actual Complaints received by Thomas Cook

"Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."

"I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller"

"It's your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel"

"I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitos."

Thanks to Jack for these and hope you get better soon.

Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the Membership Secretary, David Cross on 01322 226452 or e-mail:

D.cross595@btinternet.com

Speaker's Corner

Our speaker at the AGM on 27th April will be Jean Hildrew talking briefly about Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Lunch will be Steak & Kidney pudding or Fish & Chips.

Our speaker 27th May will be Don Cockrill MBE from Mercy Ships, an International development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world, delivering vital free healthcare to people in desperate need.

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