



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - January 2024

Our Speaker on 25th January will be Don Cockrill, MBE and is subject is "The Ever Given and the Suez Canal".

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

Chairman's Welcome

Happy New Year— I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas.

For our November meeting Phil Burt (our Secretary) gave us an amusing and interesting talk on his career through the complicated world of running a bus service. It was definitely an eye opener and I'm sure that none of us realised the complications that need to be overcome to give us a reasonable service.

This was followed in December by our Christmas Lunch. It was a great turnout, and we enjoyed a fabulous lunch followed by some tasty mince pies. Well done to Pat Burt who won best ladies Christmas hat and David Viggers who won the best Christmas tie.

I'm pleased to report the Christmas raffle raised a grand total of £215 which has gone into my charities pot. My grateful thanks to you all for your contributions.

During the lunch the club's Christmas card was distributed, our thanks go to Steve Brown for organising it.

We have just had our first event of 2024, a coffee morning at The Plough Wilmington. We had 20 members join us for coffee, 18 staying on for lunch. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and sociable start to the New Year.

Jack

New Year One Liners

- Why did Dracula pass out on New Year's Eve? There was a count down.
- What does the man with no hair sing at midnight? Bald Lang Syne.
- What is a New Year's resolution? Something that goes in one year and out the other.
- What is corn's favourite holiday? New Ears Eve.
- Some astronauts wanted to have a New Year's party on the moon, but they didn't planet in time.

The Chairman's Charities are:



Social Committee Report

We held our Christmas Lunch on Monday, 4 December 2023 and it was enjoyed by all. The Vic Jarrett trophies for the most exotic Christmas Tie (Gents) or Hat (Ladies) were won by David Viggers and Pat Burt.

We held our first coffee morning of the new year on Wednesday, 10 January 2024 and it was a success. 20 attended and after 18 dined. We have rebooked the plough for 2024 and we will circulate a new plan shortly.

We will be holding another "Bunnies" race night on Friday, 23 February 2024, please let Steve Brown know if you would like to come.

We have also booked a "Cockney Night" at Whiteoak with entertainment by "Cockney Knights" in the style of "Chas & Dave and Others" with a "Pie & Mash" supper, this will be on Saturday, 30 March 2024. A flyer has been sent to you all and we look forward to seeing you there.

Our Chairman's Dinner next year we have rebooked Princes Park for Friday, 19 April 2024. Our entertainer will be Sarah Barker as she was so enjoyed by all last time. We will be sending out more information in due course.

Our Spring Break 2024 is to Great Yarmouth at The Imperial Hotel and so far we have 37 members and friends/partners going. If anyone else would like to join us please let me know as soon as possible.

Have a great New Year.

Colin

Ideas and Volunteers

The Committee are working hard to bring new events to entertain you all in 2024 but we need new ideas and new volunteers please.

We normally try to book outings in May, July and September and these days are still free, waiting for volunteers to arrange something. Have you visited somewhere recently that you enjoyed and fancy arranging a trip with Probus members? Have you heard of a Daytrip that you like the sound of and could make the arrangements for a few members? We would love to hear from you.

Also, we've been arranging walks at Probus for many years but now Roy Freeman is retiring from his position as Walks Coordinator and we need a new volunteer. We also need more people to come forward and arrange walks. If you are interested, please contact any Committee member who will be happy to explain what is involved and help out where we can.

Finally, twice a year we have a break at a suitable hotel and trips to see local places of interest. The next break is to Great Yarmouth in May for 4 nights but we need new suggestions for a break in October. If you have any ideas and are willing to help us arrange something, please let us know.

Steve



Walks Information from Roy

Happy New Year all walkers, past and future (many I hope!)

The first walk for 2024 is on 14 February our **Valentine Day Walk** and will be led by Andrew Dunk from the Ship Inn, 14 The Street, Cobham, DA12 3BN (///fries.goat.trick,). Do bring your partners and lovers for a day of fun, laughter and good company. Chocolates would be welcome!

Car parking is at the Inn and Andrew is reprising the walk that had to be cancelled in November. He will lead us into Jeskyns Community Woodland to the café where we will stop for coffee. Subject to time, the return will be via Henhurst Lake, Jeskyns Orchards, Sole St and through the orchards back to Cobham Church. It is a fairly flat walk with good surface paths and just a couple of gentle rises of about 2.6 miles in length. **Please note that the walk starts at 10.00 am to allow for the coffee stop.**

Andrew has booked at the Inn for 12.30 **but pre-orders are required. Please visit the Inn's website (www.greeneking.co.uk) for the current menu to select your meal. Andrew will also have a copy of the menu at the January lunch meeting.**

PLEASE LET ANDREW KNOW BY 6.00PM ON SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY IF YOU ARE COMING AND WHETHER WALKING, LUNCHING OR BOTH AND YOUR CHOICE OF MEAL. He has to advise the Inn on Monday morning of the meals required.

I am sure that the terrain will suit many so why not try it for a bit of exercise and fresh air?

DIRECTIONS Take the A2 coastwise past Gravesend East to reach the turn off for Shorne and Cobham. At the top of the slip road, turn left and continue back over the A2 to reach a roundabout, Turn left and continue to the edge of Cobham to reach another roundabout. Turn right and the pub is approx 150yards on the right

Roy

Birthdays

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

Phil Ellerman, Ben Garrad, Jack Swift, Tony Duffield,
Andrew Dunk, Bernard Nash, David Cooper,
Ron Searle, Ron Armstrong and Colin Verry



The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		3044
General Funds		190
Pending Payment:		3375
Contingency Fund		1989
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		8598

Further additions to the Chairman's Charities funds emanating from the raffle at the Christmas lunch and other member donations have now raised the total collected to over £3000, a splendid result and a thank you to members for your generosity over the year to date.

Funds pending payment are in relation to this year's Spring Break and the forthcoming Racing Night.

Derek

January Facts

The name for January comes from the Roman God Janus, who is always depicted with two heads. He uses one head to look back on the year before and the other head to look forward to the New Year!

Originally, the Roman calendar had only 10 months, and it excluded January and February. King Numa Pompilius, the second king of Rome, is responsible for adding both January and February to the Roman calendar. Even so, it only had 30 days. Finally, Julius Caesar added the 31st day to the month and completed it to the full month of January that we practice now!

Generally, January is the coldest month of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The equivalent month of January in terms of temperature in the Southern Hemisphere is July!

January has two zodiac signs – Capricorn, which is until January 19, and Aquarius, which is for the rest of the month.

The *Dianthus caryophyllus* is the primary birth flower of January – more commonly known as the carnation! January's other birth flower is the humble snowdrop.

Members

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

Speaker's Corner

Our speaker on 25th January is Don Cockrill MBE and his subject is "The Ever Given and the Suez Canal".

Our speaker on 29th February is Mike Ball and his subject is "Cross-Channel swimming"

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