

Short Walk From The Three Horseshoes

Twenty Four hardy members together with wives and partners etc met at the 3 Horseshoes for a rainy start for a three mile pub amble. After 1/2 hour the rain gave way to a dry spell and believe it or not a short spell of sunshine.



The walk took us through some very pleasant rural scenery, including a small bluebell wood, we only had to negotiate two small stiles and I think that Geoff must have thought we were a

righteous bunch as we had to walk on water in places. The 3 Horseshoes proved to be a cut above your normal pub grub, not a complaint from anybody. Our thanks must go to Geoff and Sheila for a lovely walk and meal despite the inclement weather

Fred gave a vote of thanks, this being his last job as President, he also gave thanks to all members who had organised walks during his year of office



Barry Parsonage

Editor's Notes

Articles/photos received will only be published for the current month if they reach me **no later than the Saturday before** publication at the monthly General Meeting. All other photos/articles will be published on the Club Website. Whilst it is understood that not all members have computers the preferred method of receiving articles/photos is by email. The number of pages in the Newsletter may vary and will be based on information supplied.

Articles should be restricted to **a maximum of 250 words**. Articles will be edited, major changes by agreement with the member/author concerned.

Any opinions expressed within the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee.

The Publicity Officer (**Harry Medcalf**) may submit extracts of articles and photos to the local press.

Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Nightingale

No.162

April 2012

Spring is in the air !!



Indoor bowling is over for most. Sixteen members came out of hibernation to play at the Conservative Club and try out their skills on the freshly mown green. In the picture are some – but not all of the bowlers). Initially the skills seemed a little rusty but we were soon back to our old form ! A hot snack and a refreshing, freshly pulled, pint went down well afterwards.

Pictured (L-R) Ron, Geoff, John, Don, Keith, Brian, David, Rod, Barry, Fred, John, Jim, Alf, Roy and Peter. (The Editor is behind the camera !)

Fred Nightingale

Many congratulatory messages have been received about Fred Nightingales Presidential Year. Despite personal difficulties he has shown great enthusiasm. He has used a mixture of tact and good humour. All have been impressed with his determination to include widows as much as possible. He has been very mindful of members and widows in poor health. Maintaining the harmony of the club was paramount for him. A meticulous and kind man. A good act to follow.

Heavy Haulage

(Give me a suitable fulcrum and I will move the World. Archimedes).

John Budd, a past President of Tamworth Probus Club was the guest speaker at the March meeting. A former banker and model engineering enthusiast, he rather surprisingly chose as his topic the heavy haulage industry; which he illustrated with examples of the activities of the Red-ditch based Allelys Group.

Formed just over 50 years ago and now one of the largest haulage companies in the UK; Allelys provide transport solutions for abnormally high, wide, long and heavy loads, such as locomotives, electricity generation equipment, petro-chemical process plant and prefabricated sub assemblies. Each movement is unique and the route, destination and load characteristics determine the exact make up of the tractor/trailer combination. Multiple axle units are used to equalise the load and ensure compliance with statutory limits on allowable axle weights. For added mobility it is not unusual for each axle module to have computer-controlled suspension and steering facilities,

During his talk John encouraged members to ask questions and it soon became evident that there was something for everyone in the content. Obviously the former engineers were enjoying the engineering aspects, whilst others were particularly drawn to issues such as the route planning process and the actual movement of such large vehicles and their abnormal loads.

Clearly previous experience provides a good starting point for planning the route. However once theoretically established, a physical survey is carried out to determine the feasibility of the route and to gain the necessary approval of the respective authorities for the movement to take place. Apparently this can take several months for a relatively straightforward delivery and somewhat longer for inward or outbound Continental traffic. Contrary to popular belief, the police no longer provide escorts, as this and all safety issues are now the responsibility of the haulage contractors.

In conclusion it is apparent that unlike the theoretical solution provided by Archimedes over 2000 years ago, present day hauliers use more practical and creative solutions to move the seemingly impossible.

Following this most interesting and informative talk, a vote of thanks was proposed by Mike Lock.

Bryan Nicholas

VISIT TO MARSTON'S BREWERY – 12 APRIL 2012

Members enjoyed a guided tour of the Brewery including the Brewhouse, Burton Union System and Bottling Plant. Thereafter we tucked into Steak and Ale Pie washed down by some excellent beers.

Brewing begins with the famous Burton water, which comes from nearby wells in the river valley. The mineral-rich water is quite hard and high in gypsum. It contains the perfect balance of minerals and salts to enhance hop bitterness whilst also improving

clarity and yeast attenuation in pale ales.

The raw ingredients are the finest: floor malted Maris Otter barley malts, Fuggles and Goldings hops from Hereford, Worcester-



shire and Kent. The malt mills and screens are original. From here the malt meets the Burton water as it is mixed in mash tuns and they brew twice a day. The wort runs to the two coppers for a 1.5-hour boil.

After the boil, hops are removed, then the wort is further cleared via a whirlpool. All fermentation begins in closed fermenters. After around 30 hours a portion of the fermenting beer is dropped to the union sets, which serve as yeast propagators. The beer in the unions remains in the system for three days at around 62F.

For all its apparent quirkiness, the Burton Union system is the natural result of experience and experimentation with the time-honoured method of fermentation in wooden casks. The basic set-up was expanded to link multiple casks together, "in union". At Marston's the casks are in twin rows of 12, each holding 654 litres and linked by pipes and long troughs suspended above and below. The lower trough is used at the end of fermentation when beer is drained from the casks and pumped into conditioning tanks for packaging. 80% of their production is cask-conditioned ales.

A unique production system – so keep drinking!

David Rooke

The April extended walk.

11 of the usual suspects together with 5 lovely ladies assembled at Ticknall under the guidance of Rod. The weather was bright and dry as we proceeded through some attractive and undulating countryside, past some long-horned cows, and a nearly



empty dew pond, showing early signs of a drought. Shortly we were confronted by a screen of 30 or so fifty foot trees bordering a farmstead: they had been truncated and shorn of their branches to look rather like a row of thick telegraph poles. Then around the corner a stallion was awaiting the attention of a farrier – although one member thought that it was **his** day with a couple of mares showing interest nearby!

After a lunch stop at the Foremark Reservoir, where we had seats sheltered near a Severn-Trent shop, we followed a path through a pretty wooded section alongside the southern extremity of the reservoir, and finally climbed up out of the dell onto higher ground.

Our way then descended gently across farmland where we were serenaded by a skylark, but for those musicians amongst you, we did not wait for the full 14minute performance of Vaughan William's 'The Lark Ascending'! Shortly we were back in the grounds of Calke Abbey and thence found our way out of the parkland to our start point. Here a few members, attracted by a beautiful wayside flowering plant, debated what its name might be. For those botanists amongst our readers, can you identify it from the accompanying photo - suggestions include meconopsis, primula rosea or primula spectabilis? (Answers on a postcard please.) Many thanks to Rod for a most enjoyable 6.5 mile walk with no problem stiles!



Mike Lock

The most informed answer came from Rita who suggested it may be *Pulsatilla Vulgaris Rubra*. It is a very hardy plant of which there are over 30 varieties.. Common names include Pasque flower or Dane's Blood. (See Wikipedia for more information)..Confirmation eventually came for the Botanical Gardens in Harbourne..

Entertainment by Giggetty

The Black Country Band "Giggetty" lived up to their reputation by providing a varied and entertaining repertoire that was much appreciated by the 80 Members and Guests. [Graham Jones found a fellow comrade in arms from the band to exchange many stories.](#)



Their first session comprised a mixture of traditional folk songs and well known hits interspersed with excellent Black Country humour. Tony Dal-loway's attempt to generate internecine warfare between Groups A and B prompted some real theatrical moments when B team threatened to walk away with the evening's food !!

After the interval John Buckland dimmed the lights and Giggetty raised the tempo as we swung into an Abba theme that tempted a host of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers look a likes to the floor. At one stage, the group played with such gusto that they blew up the sound sensor! Undeterred we were entertained by a few more stories until the power was restored. [Pat Terry lead a](#)

[conga through the room. Not too sure if the guy, who took the lead, had much rhythm !](#) The evening finalised on a medley of tunes that guaranteed tired feet and aching knees for Sunday morning. [\(How true !\)](#)

Our thanks go to Graham, Margaret, Sylvia, Rita, John, Brian, Jim and Harry for all their hard work which ensured a really successful evening. A fitting finale to Fred's Presidential Year. **David Rooke**



Events and Activities for April to July 2012

Thursday 26th April
Annual General Meeting
(No visitors please)
Newsletter Report: Harry Medcalf

Kitchen Rota: David Roy
Terry Booth, John Cheal
Alfred Wallwork, Denis Perkins

Thursday 3rd May
Long Walk lead by Rod Crowley
Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Thursday 10th May
Highbury Comedy with Buffet (£18)
The Sunshine Boys
Meet at theatre by 5.45 pm
Coordinators John Cheal & David Rooke

Sunday 13th May
Sutton Town Hall (£10)
Shrewsbury Male voice Choir +
Birmingham Brass Band
Meet at theatre for 7.00 pm
Coordinator John Cheal

Thursday 17th May
Short Walk and Pub Lunch
Walk Leader: Roy Willson

Thursday 24th May
Tales of Sutton High Street
Speaker: Elisabeth Alison
Vote of Thanks: Roger Phillips
Newsletter Report: Fred Nightingale

Kitchen Rota: John Booth
Peter Gray, Peter Prime
Barry Parsonage, Derek Smith

Friday 1st June
President's Supper at the Terrace
Meet at 7.00 pm
Includes entertainment.
Organisers: John Cheal & David Rooke

Thursday 7th June
Long Walk led by Graham Jones
Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

9th - 16th June
Club holiday in Ibiza
Coordinator: Brian Mallett

Thursday 14th June
Short walk and Lunch
Walk Leader: Tony Ferneyhough

Thursday 21st June
Coach trip to Stratford on Avon
Organisers: Jim Bailey & David Roy

Thursday 28th June
Lifting the Lid on the Garrick Theatre
Adrian Jackson
Vote of Thanks: Peter Prime
Newsletter Report: Dennis Rose

Kitchen Rota: Alf Dineen
Barry Gill, Mike Gospel
Ian Scholes, David Wallis

Monday 2nd July
Long Walk lead by Dennis Rose
Direct or met at Roy's to car share.

Monday 9th July
Gentleshaw Bowls Open Day
Coordinator: Mike Lock

Future Events: See the website for greater detail.

Thursday 12th July
Coach trip to Belton House and
Woolsthorpe Manor
Coordinator: Brian Mallett

Thursday 19th July
Short Walk and Pub Lunch
lead by Derek Smith

Thursday 26th July
War of The Worlds
Andrew Lounds
Vote of Thanks : David Roy
Newsletter Report: Ron Ryman

Kitchen Rota:

Please inform **Ron Ryman** if you are unable to attend a General Meeting by the **Sunday** before that General Meeting.

If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or the Newsletter Report please get in touch with **Tony Ferneyhough**, well before that General Meeting.

Graham Jones should be notified - in plenty of time - if you are unable to carry out any of the Kitchen Rota duties

Short Walk - Thursday 17th May

Start: Walk 10.30am.. Lunch: 12.30

Venue: The Holly Bush, Little Hay. WS14 0QA
The pub is easy to find about 6 miles North of Sutton.

Walk: About 3 miles along country lanes and across fields.
There are no stiles but there are a few upward slopes..

Meal Cost: £7.50 to £9.00 for two courses (includes coffee)

Organiser: Roy Willson

Please ensure you wear suitable footwear for the terrain.

Long Walk, Thursday, 3rd May

A real gem of a walk in the Peak District, from Alstonefield. 6.75 miles with much easy, flat walking. One or two slopes to go up but the only steep hill we go down – hooray!! Well within our capabilities. Now the summer is coming, it will be about four hours plus stops.

Full details from Rod at the General Meeting