

Castle Ring Short Walk

We were met with the news that our leader was suffering from an old injury and would not be able to lead us on our walk over Cannock Chase. As usual when visiting Cannock Chase it is always difficult to find the location of the start at Castle Ring and so it proved for our Walks Organiser and his passengers. We could not possibly start a walk without our leader who can guarantee good weather and as



we were just about to start the walk without him Mary and Roy arrived. Jim Bailey was asked to lead the walk and Brian gave him a map which Jim had great deal of difficulty following complaining that it

was a 40 years old. We had only gone a few yards when it was decided that it was not the right way so we went back to the start and took a different route. We then settled down for a very pleasant walk over the Cannock Chase Park.

In spite of having great concern that the heavy rain which was forecast would affect our walk we were very lucky that it remained fine. Having taken my umbrella this also helped to avert any inclement weather. John Fellows took over the leadership for the last part of the walk and guided us back to our cars in the Castle Ring Car Park. We then moved to the Rag Restaurant for what proved to be an excellent meal and most certainly one of the very best that we have had recently. Those people who did not partake of a sweet missed a real treat. Our thanks go to Brian Spencer for organizing the walk and Jim and John for guiding us in his absence. We hope that our Vice President will recover his full health shortly.

Selby Betts

BOWLS MATCH

On Tuesday last nine intrepid bowlers accepted a challenge match from Aldridge Probus Club. We played on a very interesting green, very similar to Gentleshaw, at Aldridge Conservative club. By the tea time break we were winning 61 points to 53. I think they must have spiked our tea as, at the end, we lost 107 point to 102. A close match enjoyed by all..

Barry Parsonage

Sutton Park Probus Club



President: Fred Nightingale

Issue 154 August 2011

Odes of Life and Laughter

At our July Meeting Ken Gilks was Billed as our Speaker, but it would have been more appropriate to call him an Entertainer. He described himself as a cross between Pam Ayres and Cyril Fletcher and kept us amused for almost an hour with his Odes, Anecdotes and Humorous Verse built around everyday life.

Roger Phillips, in his short Vote of Thanks, summed it up perfectly, as "Something different but very enjoyable."

Brian Senior



At the meeting the speaker was keen
To talk about life and what did it mean
Ken talked about this and he talked about that
All in all it was a most interesting chat

Tricky finding words that rhymed with his name
With one like Gilks it was really a puzzle
We gathered our thoughts and entered the game
With milks and silks, surely, much better to muzzle !

He did make us laugh with the stories he told
The pace of his odes was truly so bold
With what he imparted it did make us smile
We were pleased Ken Gilks was here for a while

Tony Ferneyhough

IRONBRIDGE GORGE—BLISTS HILL

A visit to past Victorian living was enjoyed by a coach party of 23. Unfortunately the weather was rather inclement, but this did not prevent us having an interesting day. Blists Hill is a recreated small Victorian industrial town situated in an area where iron was smelted, coal and clay mined. Parts of the genuine industrial buildings are in evidence which includes an iron foundry and entrance to a mine.

There were small shops and services which you would expect from a small town, which included a bank, post office and stationers, pharmacy (including a dentist showing some horrific instruments), bakers (selling home made bread and cakes) drapers and outfitters, confectionery and sweets, cobblers etc. All these shops were manned by staff in Victorian dress. The photographer interested some members and two of the more adventurous of us had a photograph taken in Victorian dress which they thought made them look very old as no smiling was allowed. There was also a school in which you could sit in for lessons and also a doctor's house and surgery (again showing some instruments of the day).



It was possible to purchase coins at a Victorian rate of exchange from the bank and spend in the shops, although present day prices were also quoted. As a matter of interest for £4.80 you received 1 shilling, and for £12, half a crown.

On the edge of the town there was a small entertainment area with an old style roundabout, supplemented with the usual games including a coconut shy, darts, rifle shooting etc. Some of our party (ladies mainly) couldn't resist a go on the roundabout. Our thanks to John Cheal for organising the event.

John Booth

Visit to see The Staffordshire Hoard at Lichfield

Our arrival to see the 'Hoard'

On the 10th August I arrived at 3.30 pm at the front of Lichfield Cathedral to find a gathering of some 30 people. This looked like a Staffordshire Hoard—I was wrong. This was not the case only a bunch of good looking Probians.(what is the plural ??)



The System

We entered the Cathedral to find a well-organised system controlled by hand bells to regulate our stay.

The local discovery

We were very favoured that in our locality of Hammerwich, in the Summer of 2009, in a farmers field was discovered a cache of finely-wrought gold and silver military trappings - now called the Staffordshire Hoard.

Our Honour

Many of the above pieces have been carefully conserved and cleaned for the Lichfield Cathedral Exhibition. We therefore were honoured by being the first in the world to see them.

The Display

This is the largest find of Anglo-Saxon treasure ever discovered and contains just over 5 Kg of gold and about 1.5 Kg of silver. There are more than 3,500 objects. We saw at least 40 items which were housed behind glass.

Our Privilege

Many people are still unable to obtain tickets. It was a very interesting and enjoyable afternoon - a big thank you to David for organising this unique event.

John Cheal

Dining at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club on Saturday 12th Nov 2011



A glass of sherry or fruit juice will greet your arrival at 7.15 for 7.45

STARTER

- A. Smoked salmon, salmon gravlax & prawn platter, lemon & dill dressing
- B. Sliced duo of melon, fresh figs & Black Forest ham platter
- C. Warm grilled goats cheese, pickled beetroot and rocket salad

MAIN COURSE

- D. Salmon & prawn croute, lemon & chive hollandaise
- F. Slow roasted lamb shank, wild garlic & rosemary jus
- G. Roast English sirloin of beef, Yorkshire pudding & pan jus

SWEET

- L. Warm apple & raspberry Frangipane, vanilla ice cream
- M. Strawberry crème brulee
- P. Cheese & biscuits

Coffee & mints - All gratuities are included - Cost £25 per person

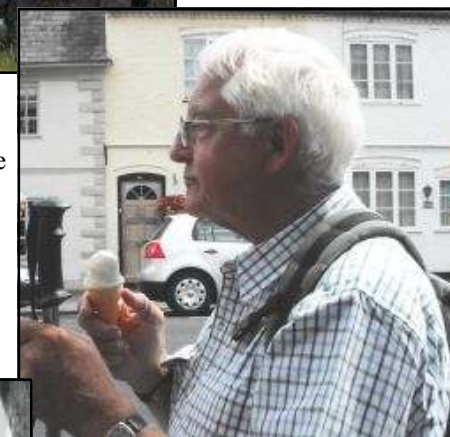
THE BOARD FOR YOUR CHOICES WILL BE AT THE AUGUST MEETING

Long Walk Aug 8th

Members of the jury (walkers) standing in the box before you is Mr Graham Jones who is accused of spreading and acting on misleading information The charge is whilst leading a walk across beautiful Warwickshire country side he did mislead on six counts.



- (1) Number of stiles (over 20, a new record !)
- (2) Did make his followers walk through dense under growth, instead of a path.
- (3) Did not even mention the stair way to heaven where they almost ran out of oxygen.
- (4) Attempted to bribe the person measuring the distance walked.
- (5) Described the mountains as hills.



- (6) Didn't buy them an ice cream.

How do you find him?

Guilty of a great walk on new terrain enjoyed by us all and look forward to seeing you at the next court case.

Many thanks to you Graham.

Geoff Silvester

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2011

7th & 21st Sept.

Don't forget to retune your TVs. If you need any help I may be able to offer assistance. (also www.digitaluk.co.uk)

30th Sept - 2nd Oct

Autumn Break - Alveston Hall

Thur 13th Oct

MMC and Jewellery Museum (a great package)

Sat 12th Nov

Fine Dining evening - Sutton Coldfield Golf Club

Fri 9th Dec

Christmas Lunch at Moor Hall

Short Walk

Date: 15th September

Start point: The Plough, The Green, Shustoke B46 2AN

Directions: From Coleshill take the B4114.. About 3 miles to the Pub on the corner of The Green and Church Road (B4114) Toilets available before the walk - if required.

The walk has no stiles but (apparently) some kissing gates !! Gentle countryside and good views..

Times: Walk 10.15 for 10.30 am. Meal 12.30

Distance: Approx 3 miles

Menu selection to be made at the General Meeting. **Pre-ordering is essential.**

Organiser: Derek Smith

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear

Kitchen Rota Thurs 22nd Sept

**John Booth
Brian Harbourne
Keith Keeley
Harry Medcalf
Barry Parsonage**

Graham Jones -Venue Secretary



Kitchen Rota Thurs 25th Aug

**John Longmore
Selby Betts
Neil Crabb
John Fellows
Ivor Wesley**

Graham Jones -Venue Secretary

Date	Event	Speaker\ Coordinator	Vote Of Thanks	Newsletter Report
Thur 25 Aug	Brunel. A Victorian Genius	Ray Sturdy	Derek Smith	Brian Spencer
Thur 1st Sept	Long Walk Wenlock Edge	Rod Crowley	Depart from Roy’s by 9.30 am	
Thurs 15th Sept	Short Walk	Derek Smith	Walk Starts at 10.30 am	
Thur 22nd Sept	Baron Ash and Packwood House	Mike Miles	Ian Scholes	Bryan Nicholas
30th Sept\ 2nd Oct	Autumn Break	Jim Bailey	Alveston Hall	
Thur 6th Oct	Long Walk Cotswolds	Barry Gill	Depart from Roy’s by 9.30 am	
Thur 13th Oct	MMC & Jewellery Museums	David Rooke Jim Bailey	More details later.	
Thur 20th Oct	Short Walk and Pub Lunch	Roy Willson		
Thur 27 Oct	Talk on Pub Signs	David Cole	Jim Bailey	Selby Betts
Mon 7th Nov	Long Walk Malverns	Brian Spencer	Depart from Roy’s by 9.30am	
Sat 12th Nov	Fine Dining	Brian Mallet	Sutton Coldfield Golf Club (Menu details on page 6)	
Thur 17th Nov	Short Walk	Roy Willson		
Wed 23rd Nov	NEC—behind the scenes	David Rooke	More details later	
Thur 24th Nov	Birmingham Trams	Derek Hayward	Ray Clark	Neil Crab
Thurs 1st Dec	Long Walk Shrewsbury	Alfred Wallwork	Depart from Roy’s by 9.30am	
Fri 9th Dec	Christmas Lunch at Moor Hall	John Purnell David Rooke		
There is NO General Meeting or Short Walk in December				