

PRESIDENTS SUPPER EVENING

FRIDAY 17 JULY 2015

This was another superb Probus event – good company, lovely setting, excellent food and brilliant entertainment. President Fred and Pat greeted everyone in the foyer enjoying their reception drinks prior to being called for dinner. Our President then welcomed members and guests before David Roy delivered an interesting variant on Grace. Food was of the highest quality, presented beautifully and supported by excellent service from the attentive staff. In his “Toast to the Club” Mike Lock provided a summary of the Club’s ethos and values which clearly resonated with all present. To many, the evening’s highlight was the news that Mike and Janet Gospel were celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary – Janet was clearly a child bride!! Ignoring any sense of protocol, Harry Medcalf then provided a very amusing resume of the top five chart toppers of fifty years ago with linked innuendos to the honeymoon couple. Post interval entertainment was provided by Kelly-Louise, a very accomplished singer, who sang a repertoire of famous songs from the musicals. The rapturous applause she received was testimony to Members appreciation. Our President closed the evening by thanking the myriad of people who had contributed to the event, most notably Harry Medcalf, who put on an extremely professional performance as Master of Ceremonies.

Report - David Rooke Photos—Rita Rooks



MIDDLETON HALL VISIT 13TH AUGUST

Seventeen members and partners met for a specially conducted tour of the Hall and grounds. An excellent presentation by a volunteer dated its construction in 1435 to the Normans after which ownership passed to the Willoughby family for almost 500 years until death duties forced them to sell in 1924. During this period a number of famous residents lived there including the noted botanist John Ray and ‘Bobby’ founder John Peel who had been Tamworth’s MP and the founder of Barclays Bank!

It was then purchased by the industrialist John Averill who allowed the Hall to become derelict and eventually oversaw the development of gravel pits by Avery Roadstones. Fortunately in 1980 a ramblers group stumbled on the Hall and decided to create a Trust in order to restore the buildings and gardens to its former glory which they have done spectacularly with much skill and hard work! We were then given an absorbing tour by volunteers through the History Gallery; the Needlework Picture History of Sutton and the John Peel Museum. Finally we were shown around the impressive walled garden, orchard, moat remains and lakes. So many thanks must be accorded to all the volunteer staff who entertained us for a lovely day out.

Report—Graham Jones

Photo— Rita Rooke



Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Ditchfield

Newsletter

No.200

August 2015

PRESIDENTS SUPPER NIGHT



____MANY MORE GREAT PICS ON TONY’S WEBSITE!

Thank you all for the lovely basket of flowers presented to me at the President's Supper. They were delightful and went well with the decor in our lounge.

Thank you so much. Pat Ditchfield

General Meeting 2015.
Thursday 27th July
TAMWORTH CASTLE'S HISTORY

Setting the tone for the day we toasted Tim and Sheila Daly on the occasion of their (60th) diamond wedding anniversary. Tim spoke eloquently on reaching this landmark and of his appreciation of their friendship and fellowship shared as a founder Club member. Our speaker, Carole Haines, was a little anxious being used to talking to WI groups. However, bolstered by a glass of red wine she proceeded to give a confident, comprehensive and lively account of the Castle's history. **Full details are available on the Castle web-site, so here are just a few points:** In Anglo-Saxon times, Tamworth became the principle royal and administrative centre, at the heart of Mercia. (How the mighty are fallen!). The origins of the motte and bailey castle were Norman but in the 12C, the wooden buildings were replaced by stone with walls 9' thick and 30' high. Over the centuries more changes were made so by the time of King James 1st it was grand enough to be used as a Royal residence with hunting on Cannock Chase. During the Civil War it was a thorn in the side of the Parliamentarians, based at Lichfield so they laid siege to the Castle capturing it in two days! Cromwell then ordered its destruction but it is not known if this happened. Two more centuries of neglect followed after which major restorations were undertaken at the turn of the 19c at which point it was bought for £3,000 by Tamworth Corporation and opened to the public in 1899 and is still on public view. Barry Gill proposed the vote of thanks and complimented the speaker for keeping his table companions wide awake throughout!

Report - Rod Crowley



SUMMER BARBEQUE - AUGUST 9th



With marquees erected, pig roast well under way, and a great Country & Western band playing in a lovingly prepared venue it was a joy just to arrive at the Summer Barbeque on this lovely sunny afternoon. Yet it got better. The occasional, tempting waft from the roasting pig heightened anticipation of the meal - and it certainly lived up to its promise when it was served. Great food, plenty of it, and a good selection of drinks kept us all well satisfied.

The change to a Western theme led to many adopting wild-west garb with an abundance of Sheriffs, then several members were suddenly seen in quite a new light, particularly so when Paul Beaumont tried manfully to teach some line dancing. No doubt he saw one or two moves that he had never seen before! It did, though, all add to the general fun feel of the day. Two stunningly restored Jaguars, brought along by Neil Crabb and Harry Medcalf, provided a marvellous sideshow to the whole proceedings and kept their owners fully occupied with a constant stream of guests and motorheads. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the people who had worked so hard to make this event the success that it was. John Buckland for the months of preparation (and for wearing out his prayer mat in arranging the weather); to Nick Gray for erecting the marquees; and to Marlene and John Fellows for preparing the 'Ranch' so beautifully, bedecking it with flowers for our exclusive use. Many thanks to you all.

Report - David Tippin

Photos - Rita Rooke

MAKING YOUR APOLOGIES

If you are unable to attend a General Meeting please advise **Allan Powers** by the **Sunday** before that General Meeting.

If you are unable to carry out your duties on the Kitchen Rota then please try and 'swap' with someone from the following month, advising **John Vickers** of the change.

If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or write the Newsletter Report please get in touch with **Dale Lyons**, **well before** that General Meeting. My **absolute** deadline for reports & news is the **Saturday before** the next monthly meeting.

E-mail address; dale@5rhg.co.uk

EVENT REPORT LIVERPOOL TRIP 24th—26th JULY

Some twenty eight of us travelled to Alveston Manor Hotel on Friday 24th July to start our weekend break to Liverpool, on our arrival at the hotel, we were greeted by Jim for a welcome drink with other members of our party in the lounge. There were activities aplenty; quizzes, outdoor activities for the more adventurous; a spa and treatments for the ladies. In the evening we gathered in an exclusive lounge that Jim arranged for pre dinner drinks and pleased that Rhona was with us. The hotel had reserved a separate but rather cramped area where we enjoyed a varied dinner selection. On the Friday evening we were provided with lively entertainment and those with more stamina stayed until the Disco closed! After breakfast we took the coach to Liverpool's Pier Head, close to the famous Liver Building for the commissioned open top bus tour of the iconic sites of Liverpool. Our guide and driver gave us an amusing and detailed background to Liverpool's history and tourist spots. Some then went for an hour trip on the Mersey ferry in a brisk, chill wind. We then had a couple of hours to explore the sights and museums around the beautifully rebuilt Docklands which I remember in my earlier years in business as being less than attractive. What a transformation into a leisure and cultural bonanza but requiring more time to explore than we had. We returned to the hotel for a pleasant evening of dining, entertainment and dancing to a swing band until late. Sunday was free time so we all had our own agenda for the day which unfortunately was rain limited. In the evening we gathered again for pre-dinner drinks and our Vice President David Rooke thanked Jim for all his hard work in arranging another successful weekend break. We then had an excellent dinner ending with some professional singing and dancing by the resident entertainers. Later the fit ones danced to the disco beat! Our Vice President must be a rocker at heart – seen playing his air guitar!! Monday morning soon arrived with breakfast and home, ending another successful, if tiring Probus weekend. **Report -Mike Terry**



PHOTO COMPETITION

YES THEY ARE ALL YOUNG PROBIANS SO JUST ADD A NAME TO THE PHOTO. THE RESULT AND WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT THE AUGUST MEETING.



The Probian is on the left!



Your feedback on the Newsletter

Leave out non-Probus information
More detail of events in the Newsletter please.

Events and Activities to November 2015

N.B. ALWAYS CHECK THE BOARDS FOR MORE EVENT DETAILS OR SEE THE ORGANISERS

Thursday 27th August
Club General Meeting
Canine Partners Charity
Dogs for the disabled
Speaker: Julia Hurley
Newsletter Report: Mike Haynes
Vote of Thanks: Neil Crabb

Kitchen Rota: John Carrington,
Alf Dineen, John Fellows,
Mike Gospel, David Tippin

Thursday 10th September
Long Walk led by Dennis Rose

Friday 4th—8th September
Autumn Break to Wales
Organised by Mike Gospel

Thursday 17th September
Short walk led by Geoff Silvester

Thursday 24th September
Club General Meeting.
'The Past Beneath our Feet'
Speaker: Jan Wall
Newsletter Report—David Tippin
Vote of Thanks - Dennis Perkins

Kitchen Rota; Richard Humphrey,
Brian Mallett, Alan Powers,
Dennis Rose, Mike Terry.

Thursday 1st October
Long Walk in Hanbury led by
David Tippin & Dale Lyons

Thursday 8th October
Morgan Car Company - Malvern
Organised by Philip Troman

Thursday 15th October
Pub Amble led by Brian Spencer

Thursday 22nd October
Club General Meeting
'Laughter Cures Illness'
Speaker: Rob Green
Newsletter Report - Roy Galloway
Vote of Thanks - Rod Crowley

Kitchen Rota: Roger Phillips,
Barry Gill, David Wallis,
Roy Willson, Peter Weston

Thursday 29th October
Dining Evening at The Kababish
Organised by Mike Gospel &
Jim Bailey

Thursday 5th November
Fireworks Long walk & pub lunch
Led by David Rooke

Thursday 19th November
Short walk led by John Cheal

Thursday 26th November
Club General Meeting
'Gardening Mishaps'
Speakers: Graham & Judy White
Newsletter Report - Roy Galloway
Vote of Thanks—Paul Beamont

Kitchen Rota: Selby Betts
John Buckland, Geoff Silvester
Brian Harbourne, Neil Crabb

Members are reminded that if you want to join the Amblers for a pub lunch you cannot just 'turn up' on the day but must book in advance.

EVENTS DETAILS

N.B. The long walk originally organised for September 3rd has been changed to Thursday September 10th due to a clash of dates.

LONG WALK 10th SEPTEMBER

The walk will start in the car park (£1.60 for 4 hours) at the rear of the Raven Hotel which is off St.Mary's Road in the centre of Much Wenlock. Meet at 10-30 for a 10-45 start. Toilets (20p) are available at the car park. The journey is approx.40 miles via M54, the A442 and A4169 (note the sharp left turn at Buildwas Power Station) and takes circa 1 hour. The walk is approx. 5 miles in 2 connected halves, the first half fairly easy and the second more energetic involving a climb up Wenlock Edge, but no difficulty for regular walkers. Weather permitting a picnic lunch is suggested. **Organiser - Dennis Rose**

Pub Amble Blithfield Reservoir Abbots Bromley Thursday September 17th

The Amble is about 2 to 2.5 miles ; on pleasant woodland tracks with no stiles. Meet at car park to start at 10.30am. DIRECTIONS . Time from Sutton about 40 mins. From Rugeley take the B5013 to Abbots Bromley off the A51 Rugeley by pass. On B5013 note a sign to Colton Village and see the Ye Olde Dun Cow (our lunch venue). Continue on the B5013 crossing the reservoir to a T junction for a left turn. About half mile further turn left into Newton Hurst Lane and after approx. half a mile turn left into Blithfield Walks. To return to the pub for 12.30 lunch. Retrace your route back along the B5013 to Colton (10 mins / 5miles) then turn left, continue over a bridge, through the village to a mini island then left, continue to the Olde Dun Cow on the left hand side. My no. 07884494535 **N.B. Pub eaters MUST book in!** **Organiser—Geoff Silvester**

MORGAN CAR VISIT 8th OCTOBER

An interesting trip has been organised to the Morgan Motor Company at Malvern on the 8 October 2015. The tour has been booked for 10 am and there will be an optional lunch at the excellent Swan Inn at Newland (5 mins. away from Morgan) afterwards. A board will be out at the August meeting and Philip is hoping for a good response."

Organiser – Philip Troman

N.B. The detailed information for the Autumn break to Wales (4th-8th Sept.) will be distributed to interested parties in due course with additional information (verbatim) provided by Mike Gospel at the August meeting.

LONG WALK – THURSDAY 1 OCTOBER. HANBURY

This walk will begin at the Eagle & Sun hostelry, Hanbury Wharf WR9 7DX. Using towpath, open fields, and wooded areas, the terrain is gently undulating for much of its 6½ miles with one steepish section of about 100 yards. There are no stiles and roads are almost completely avoided. Parking, and lunch at the Eagle & Sun is reasonably priced, v.g. and in an attractive canal-side pub. Board out at August meeting.

Organisers: David Tippin & Dale Lyons