

THE LAST TRAM TO BARNABUS ROAD

Not everybody shares my interest in wheels and wings. However our speaker at the September meeting Derek Hayward, gave us a most absorbing and colourful insight into the City of Birmingham's tram network. This was from it's inception in 1882 with horse drawn four wheelers plying their trade from The Green at Erdington, until it's sad demise on Saturday 4th July 1953. It's interesting to note that "the last tram in service" so frequently depicted in paintings with the Lord Mayor and dignitaries on board, was a 40hp UEC 512 Class, that had been in continuous service since 1914. It had covered over nine million miles without incident. Back in it's early service it was open balconied front and aft, but due no doubt to health and safety, it was panelled in during the late 1930's "Such a shame"



Do you remember the transverse seating ? The driver keying the Bundy clock before departure, and the Clippie turning the trolley pole in readiness for the return trip ? And what about those nostalgic trips to the Lickey Hills from the terminus at Navigation Street. Through the Horse Fair, gathering pace down the Bristol Road with it's clipped grassed central reservation, and onwards to the Rednal climb and the famed Lickey Loop beyond.

His slide show of the most remarkable paintings and early photo's, treated us to rare glimpses of the Birmingham that so many of us remembered during 1940's and 50's. The old Market Hall in Digbeth (now in America), the distinctive shops in Corporation street with Kunzles Corner, the Royal Theatre; the Queens Hotel and of course Steelhouse Lane with it's profusion of gun shops. At that time the City's tram system was the 4th largest in the country, with over 800 cars conveying tens of thousands of passengers daily to factories, football matches and city shopping.

At a time when the Government is yet again interfering with Sutton's boundaries, It's perhaps interesting to reflect that back in 1900, Erdington was not yet part of the Birmingham conurbation. Yet it was the metropolis of the most amazing steam trams hauling extra cars behind them to the far reaches of the City.

Neil Crabb

Foot Note.

For those interested in trams. The tram museum at Witton is well worth a visit.



Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Nightingale

Issue 158 December 2011

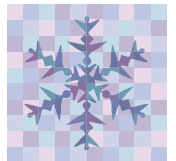


Wishing all fellow members, wives, partners
and their families a very

Merry Christmas

And a

Happy and Healthy New Year



Kitchen Rota
Thurs 26th Jan

Don Cooper
Tim Daly
John Longmore
Neil Crabb
Brian Harbourne

Graham Jones
Venue Secretary

Forthcoming Events for 2012

Visit to Marston Brewery - Thur 9th Feb

Entertainment Night (Giggetty) - Sat 24th Mar

Highbury Theatre (Comedy and Buffet) Thur 1st May

President's Supper - Fri 1st Jun

BBQ - Sun 5th Aug

City Break to York 9th - 12th Sept

Editorial for 2011

Another successful year for our club.. Thanks must go to the unstinting efforts of those members who give their time unconditionally to ensure that events run smoothly.

A recent visit to 'backstage' at the NEC (organised by David Rooke) proved very popular. Members were in awe of the security arrangements in the main control room.



The guided tour included a quick visit to the Food Show and a motorcycle exhibition.

Barry Gill arranged a great walk at Mickleton in very pleasant weather. Mickleton is the home of the famous Pudding Club where it is said there is a 2 year waiting list to try out the in-house delicacies. A cooked meal after the walk - instead of the usual picnic - was well received.

The photo (left) shows our President congratulating Alf Dineen - our latest member. (Picture taken at the last GM).

Once again there is a good mix of social activities every month next year to ensure there is something for everyone. Indoor bowling - at Amington - is a new venture for some. With a light meal to follow it makes for a pleasant way to spend time with friends during the Winter months.

Please note the dates for the Summer BBQ and the City break. These events have proved very popular amongst the members and are always very well supported.

We were reminded, at a recent meeting by our Vice President that we are an aging club and new (younger) members are required. Hopefully new members will help to lower the average age of the membership and keep the club viable.

Thanks to all the contributors that 'volunteered' to provide articles, photos and programme material: the Newsletter has been a pleasure to produce. **Tony Ferneyhough**

Date	Event	Speaker\ Coordinator	Vote Of Thanks	Newsletter Report
Thur 9th Jan	Long Walk	Rod Crowley	Depart from Roy's by 9.15am	
Thur 19th Jan	College of Food (£14)	Brian Mallett	Arrive - 12.10 pm Meal - 12.30 pm	
Thur 26th Jan	Creation of Corporation Street	Jim Whorwood	John Cheal	Keith Keeley
Thur 2nd Feb	Long Walk	David Rooke	Depart from Roy's by 9.15am	
Thur 9th Feb	Marston Brewery(£15)	David Rooke	Depart 6pm Car share from Foley Road	
Thur 16th Feb	Bucks Fizz Amble	Brian Spencer	Mike & Jan Gospel are Hosts	
Thur 23rd Feb	South African Impressions	John Wilson	Barry Parsonage	Rod Crowley
Thur 1st Mar	Long Walk	Geoff Silvester	Depart from Roy's by 9.15am	
Thur 15th Mar	Short Walk	Roy Willson	Venue to be arranged	
Thur 22nd Mar	Heavy Haulage	John Budd	Mike Lock	Bryan Nicholas
Sat 24th Mar	Entertainment Night Giggetty	David Rooke	All Saints Church Hall	
Mon 2nd Apr	Long Walk	Alfred Wallwork	Details later	
Thur 19th Apr	Short Walk		Venue to be arranged	
Thur 26th Apr	Annual General Meeting			Harry Medcalf
Thur 3rd May	Long Walk	Rod Crowley	Details later	
Thur 10th May	Highbury Comedy with Buffet	John Cheal	More details later	
Thur 17th May	Short Walk		Venue to be arranged	