Sutton Park Probus Club (Founded in 1998)

Web Site: http://suttonparkprobus.wordpress.com **Issue 136** **February 2010**

John O'Groats to Lands End

When most of us are thinking that a walk to the pub is all the exercise we need two men, in their early sixties, decided that they walk the length of the country.. Less than one percent, who undertake the task, manage to complete this epic journey. Phil Alliso and Bill Quirk are the best of friends but such an undertaking would test them to the limits of their ability.

The walk is about 840 miles as the crow flies. Most folk do about 950-1000 miles but our intrepid pair managed just over 1100 miles which included a few 'detours' some of which were intentional !! Considering how famous the 'walk' is, there is really no definitive route. Just a series of well-known 'Ways' joined loosely together. Their plan was to walk out of season (August -September) to ensure finding accommodation for each night.

There is virtually no footpaths at the start, only the hostile environment of the A99. Then the A9 from Inverness..The daily distance travelled varied between 18 and 27 miles. They found that carrying 30 pounds arduous at times.

The digital slide show displayed many of the inspiring features of the mountainous terrain. Phil and Bill met many folk that were truly generous towards them. Provided with transport late one evening only to walk back the following morning just to say they had walked all the way !! Staying mainly in Youth Hostels - their wives assisted in booking accommodation on a daily basis. (a very practical use of mobile phones). They walked the Great Glen Way the West Highland Way and St Cuthbert's Way. Bitten one day by ticks they carried out emergency repairs to each other with a trusty pocket knife !! Bill talked us through Scotland with Phil then taking. There was a photo of them shaking hands at the Scottish border..

Continuing down the Pennine Way (a daunting 254 mile walk in it's own right !!), travelling down through Lancashire they (almost) missed Tan Hill (in Yorkshire) with it's famous pub. They eventually linked up to the Heart of England way, the Cotswold Way down through Bath and still to come the length of Somerset, bleak Dartmoor and finally the Southwest Coastal Path.

Soon their gaol was in sight !! They crossed the finish\start line after 57 days of continuous walking and finished off just as they had started with a pint in their hands !! They had very unpleasant blisters at times, and their boots, remarkably, are still being used now. £50 covered their daily budget. They reckoned they burned off 6000 calories a day and used 39 Ordinance Survey maps to complete this walk of a lifetime.

Mike Terry gave the Vote of Thanks expressing how we all felt about such a descriptive account of a true adventure. We were in true admiration of their exploits.

Tony Ferneyhough

MUD GLORIOUS MUD

There appears to be a direct correlation between adverse weather and the determination of Members to beat the elements. Thus 15 optimists met up at Wroxall Abbey Estate to fully test the waterproofing of boots, hats and anoraks.

One of the many highlights was the group splodging through a field of young turnips, the earth building up on our boots to form giant mud slippers and then gleefully walking through a lake of muddy water to cleanse the feet and reduce our weight. We passed through a farm where an enormous 2 ton bull, appropriately named Turbocharger, was held behind a flimsy gate. We watched in awe as Gill gently stroked its forehead!!

The rain eased and lunch was taken in the lee of Baddersley Clinton Church surrounded by a bank of snowdrops.

Another excellent walk with beautiful countryside and diverse terrain. In line with Page 494 of the new Health and Safety Rules, Alfred carefully counted us all back - plus Daphne.

To Alfred and Gill our thanks. **David Rooke**

Bucks Fizz Walk

Small signs on some driveways read “Bucks Fizz Parking” and they were helpful for Probus Bucks Fizzers arriving by car. No further signs though were needed to find Fred and Val Nightingale’s house. All you had to do was follow the noise level that increased as you approached the front door! It was probably as well that the alcoholic level of the Fizz was only 4% otherwise a lively party would have been even harder to break up despite Brian Spencer’s best endeavours.

27 hardy souls kitted up to start the walk; the only snag at this time being the completely mysterious loss of Yvonne Lock’s hat. A light sprinkling of snow the previous afternoon and below freezing temperatures overnight put the park at its visual best for our trek. Where there might have been mud had turned to ice so the going was less muddy than might have been expected. The BBC weather forecast that morning had been of cloud in the Midlands. As we walked in brilliant sunshine, set off by a perfectly blue sky, someone was heard to say “If only the weather forecasters were paid solely on the accuracy of their forecasts!”

All arrived safely at the Miller & Carter still probably best known to us all as La Reserve. A shout from Yvonne and one of Mike Lock’s well-known laughs told everyone that Yvonne’s hat had done the walk after all – not sitting on top of her head but stuffed up her jacket sleeve! A relaxing and enjoyable lunch ensued which completed a very successful walk.

Well organised - thanks Brian. **Harry Medcalf**

March Pub Amble

Date: March 18th
Times: Walk starts at 1030 am Lunch at 12.30 pm
Venue: The Uxbridge Arms, Chasetown WS7 3QL
Lunch Cost: £9.00
Directions: Take A5127 to Wall Island. Turn left onto the old A5. After 3.5 miles at Island turn right onto Hanney Hay Road signposted to Chasetown. After 1.5 miles Chasetown cross roads and the Uxbridge Arms.
The Walk: Around Chasewater and at almost 4 miles is slightly longer than the usual. However, there are no stiles, no hills and is nearly all on good paths..
Organiser: Roy Willson.

All walkers must wear stout shoes or walking boots (preferred) .

Please inform **Roger Phillips** if unable to attend a General Meeting by the **Sunday** before that Meeting.

If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or the Newsletter Report please contact **David Wallis**

Please notify **Rod Crowley** if you are unavailable for the Kitchen Rota well before the General Meeting

Date	Event	Speaker\Coordinator	Vote Of Thanks	Newsletter Report
Thur 25 Feb	**The Way We Were 1936 - 1954**	**John Parkes**	**Terry Booth**	**Fred Ditchfield**
Mon 1st Mar	Long Walk - Wenlock Area	**Barry Gill**	Meet at Roy's 0930 am	
Mon 8th Mar	Computer Club (please bring your laptops)	**Tony Ferneyhough**	Start at 2.00 pm	
Tues 9th Mar	Walsall College of Food (WS2 8ES) (£15)	**Dennis Rose**	Tour 6.35pm - Meal start 7.00pm	
Thur 18th Mar	Amble and Pub Lunch Chasetown (£9)	**Roy Willson**	Start at 10.30 am	
Thur 25 Mar	**Malaysian Adventure**	**Gabriella**	**Derek Smith**	**Graham Jones**
Thur 8th Apr	Pub Amble TBA	**Roy Willson**		
Thur 15Apr	RAF Museum Duxford by coach (£21)	**Keith Keeley**	Foley Road East at 8.30am	
Thur 22 Apr	**Annual General Meeting**			**John Purnell**
Thur 29th Apr	Long Walk Leicester	**Geoff Silvester**	Meet at Roy's 0930 am	

Kitchen Rota Thur 25th Mar

Bill Arnott
Paul Beaumont
John Booth
Terry Booth
John Buckland
Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

There will be another monthly computer club meeting in April.
Date to be confirmed.

Kitchen Rota Thur 25th Feb

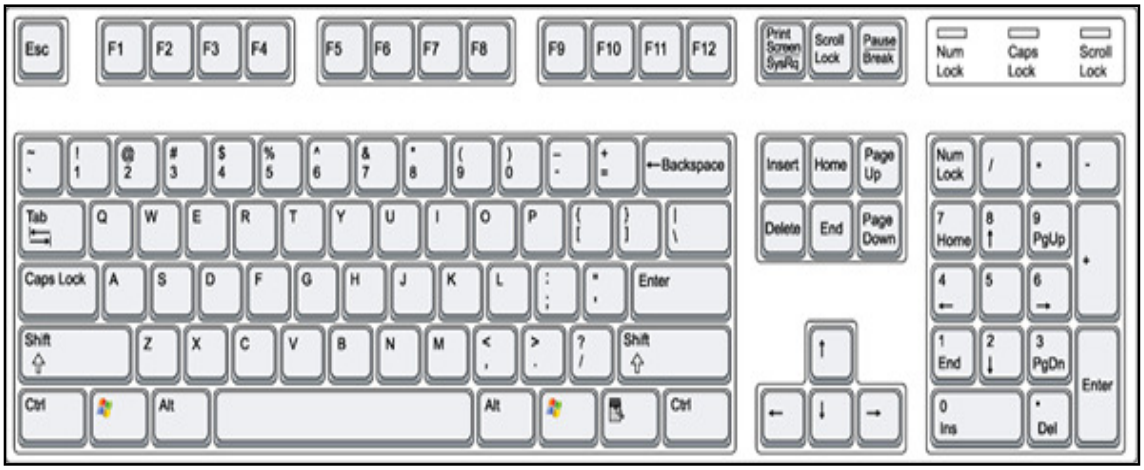
Charles Sitch
Derek Smith
Brian Spencer
Harry Medcalf
Peter Prime
Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

Attention all summer bowlers

It is the intention to start our crown green season on April 6th 10.30am at the Sutton Conservative club. Final agreement has not been reached on cost yet, but hopefully will be the same as last year,£15, assuming the same numbers as last year,

Please let me have your cash or cheques as soon as possible

Thank you Geoff Silvester



We have the Technology!

The good old QWERTY Keyboard, it's the basis for all the misery we computer users submit ourselves to every time we switch the dratted things on! But……do I see a an oasis in this desert of new technology ? Is that a teach-in in progress? How many Probus members are there? Fourteen or more.

The guy running it must be either mad, or kind, or likes to be punished for his efforts. Our esteemed Editor would not, I am sure, write to commend himself on a very successful start to a series of workshops, to help newcomers to the world of computers.

But it has to be said that it's a great idea, it seems to be fulfilling a need, and with the right sort of feed back from the participants, as to session content, speed of instruction, and other concerns, then it will prove to be a worthwhile exercise.

So our super Club is fulfilling another need, education, as well as great fellowship, the opportunity to meet folk doing many and varied pastimes, like walking, bowls, golf, bridge, and theatre visits etc.

As we approach our 12th Anniversary of the formation of the club, I think we can all say to our non Probus friends, what a great organisation SPPC is! **Brian Spencer**

Fine Dining at Packington Moor Farm

For some of us it was not the first visit to this venue.. Maybe the last time was during the day, after one of Roy's walks where we experienced truly unusual weather (!)

The night before there had been a shed-load of snow and many were expecting difficulty in getting there. But the day had been warm and sunny so most of the snow had disappeared.

Sixty-nine hardy souls arrived to enjoy an excellently prepared meal at a very different venue.. The building has had a major refurbishment in recent years and is popular for Wedding parties..The president gave his thanks to the staff and John Cheal (who capably organised the event for us)..A technical fault with the microphone turned voices into a typical 'Tannoy' sound many of us remember at train stations in bygone years !!

The room was very large with an adequate dance floor (but sadly no dancing this time). After the meal Andy (with a spectacular pair of black and white shoes) from Acorns entertained us with legerdemain magic, ably assisted by 'volunteers' from the audience. . There was the usual after-event chat and all went home having re-enforced friendships.. All in all a very pleasant evening..

An Evening Meal at
JEROMES RESTAURANT
on Tuesday 9th March 2010

We are arranging a meal at the new Walsall College at 7-00 pm for 7-30 pm and, for those who might be interested to see the new and rather splendid facilities of the college, a short tour starting at approx. 6-35 pm. There is cash bar.
Ample parking at the rear of the college from 6-30 pm is available with easy access to the building from the rear. A sketch map of the location is below. The address is

Walsall College,
Wisemore Campus,
Littleton Street West,
Walsall
WS 2 8ES
Tel: 01922 657000

The meal will cost £15.00 per person for 3 courses plus tea or coffee (inc. gratuity).
The menu choices are as follows:-

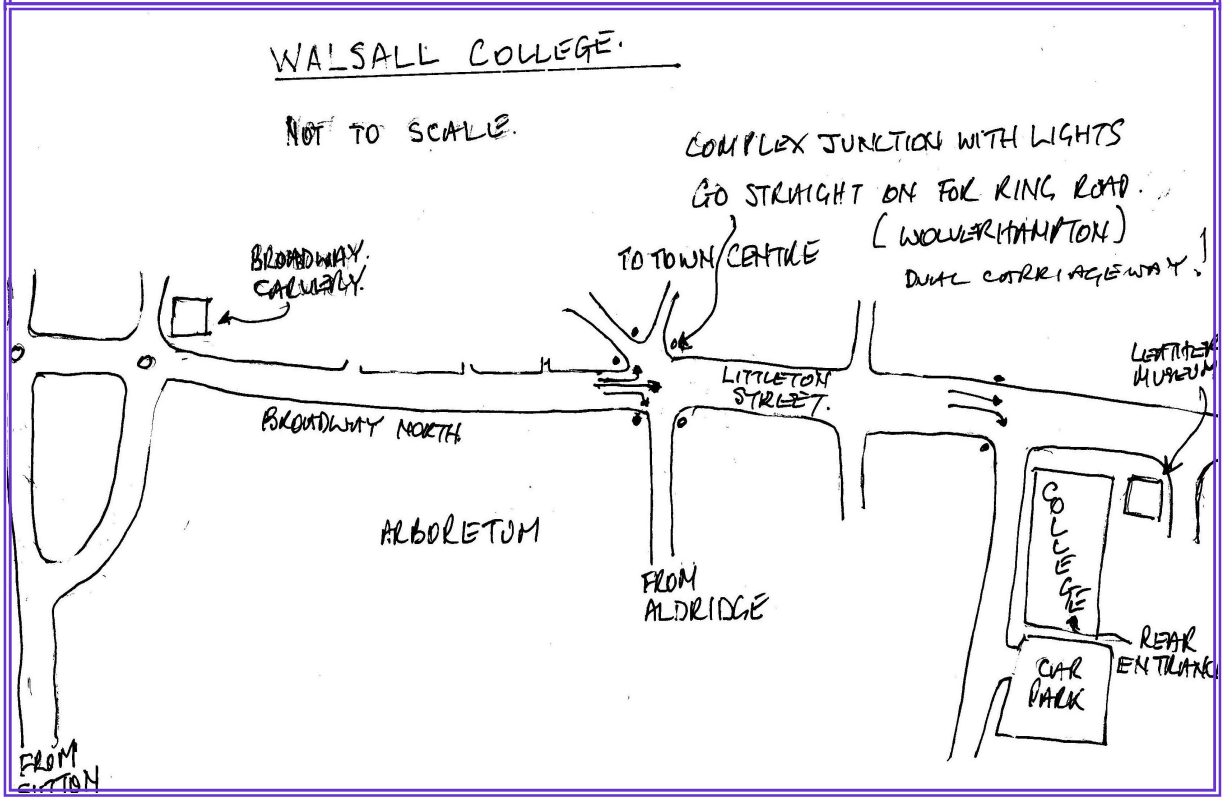
Starters

S1. White onion soup enriched with port wine and cream.
S2. Young spinach leaf with crispy bacon, hen's egg and croutons with blue cheese and chive dressing.
S3. Smoked haddock and cheese fishcake with watercress salad.

Main Courses

M1. Pork escalope with egg and parmesan coating and fresh tomato sauce.
M2. Lamb cutlets with braised chicory, artichoke hearts and braised potato in a red wine sauce.
M3. Roasted pave of salmon topped with tomato pesto, served with Chinese greens.
M4. Grilled lemon sole with béarnaise sauce and homemade chips.

Sweets

A selection from the sweet trolley

Please make your selections either at the meeting or by phoning Dennis Rose before Tuesday 2nd March. You can e-mail if more convenient.