



Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded in 1998)

President: Selby Betts

Issue 148 February 2011

As you can see there is a little spare capacity in the Newsletter.. I'm certain that all members would appreciate reading additional articles. Have you a 'pet' topic (and/or pictures) that you would like to share with the other members ?

MOVING OBJECTS

From the moment he started his talk members could not fail to be impressed by the enthusiastic manner of Andrew Goodman. His life long interest in railways has been a great help in his present commercial activity of moving heavy objects such as old steam engines, railway rolling stock, trams, large items of machinery etc. and he now runs a company M D Overweight International employing 30 workers.



He gave details of the various types of heavy moving and the numerous problems encountered when in dealing with these larger objects by road and permission for the route of any items over a certain tonnage and height having to be obtained from the Police, Highways Authorities, Railway Authorities, Water boards etc.

He mentioned there are often critical situations to overcome with the height and weights of loads passing under and over bridges, through narrow lanes and important for careful attention being given to the selection of routes. Heavy lifting machinery very often necessary to extract items to be moved from sites e.g. old steam engines in enclosed areas.

Some of the specific items handled have been for the Channel Tunnel development, NASA space shuttles sites, and North Sea Oil wells. Andrew said they are quite willing to tackle any job and described how they moved two 17th Century barns. The company are frequently used by the Yorkshire Railway Engine museum. He is used to being on call for 24 hrs a day and told us he was due to fly on business to Australia the next day and then on to Ecuador.

Tim Daly proposed a vote of thanks for a most interesting and informative talk.

John Booth

Editor's Notes

Every effort will be made to include all articles - and photos - given \sent to me. News items will only be included for the current month if they reach me **no later than the Saturday before** publication at the Thursday General Meeting. 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.

It would be appreciated if articles 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 (**Brian Harbourne**) will submit extracts of articles and photos to the local press.

A walk round the Lenches

The usual motley crew assembled for our latest jaunt, with a few notable absentees who were absent without leave, or had a perfectly reasonable excuse, to the North West of Evesham at The Lenches. This cluster of Worcestershire villages with such evocative names as Rous Lench, Abbots



Lench, and Atch Lench nestle in folds of wonderful countryside more akin to The Cotswolds than the flat valley of the Avon. One local villager had been accosted at least three times for directions to the car park before we got there, but seemed happy to direct, us in the sleepy hamlet of Church Lench. The car park adjacent to a very modern village hall and the eponymous church was ominously at the top of a hill, with fine views. This didn't bode well for the final stages of the proposed trek which meant we would obviously have to mount this at the walk's finish.

The weather was cloudy, mild, with a stiff south westerly wind, which was behind us on the first leg across the village, then through farmland to a wooded area. Signs of spring were evident, as the hazel catkins and snowdrops were on show in and under the hedgerows. Inevitably we eventually turned into the wind, and this proved more of a struggle. However, contrary to the forecast, the weather started to improve, so that by lunch time, in a sheltered sunny hollow we waded through our packed lunches, close to Rous Court a splendid country mansion. The whole area was dotted with houses of well heeled local folk, and the countryside lent itself to the huntin' fishin' and shootin' fraternity.

The final push came as a bit of an anti-climax after the dire warning from our organisers Alfred and Gill that 'the steep bit was at the end' ! Another corner of beautiful English countryside had been explored, and will I am sure be revisited by many of us in the future. Well done organising team!

Brian Spencer

As reminder to members that we have our own club website, the address is :-

<http://suttonparkprobus.wordpress.com>

During the course of the year many pictures are taken, all of which cannot possibly be included in the Newsletter. Please continue to review the site, on a regular basis.

By using the 'right-click' function of the mouse it is possible to copy (and save) pictures direct from our site onto your own computer(s). If you would like to contribute articles and/or pictures I will endeavour to upload them at the earliest moment.

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.

Rod Crowley should be informed - in plenty of time - if you are unable to carry out any of the Kitchen Rota duties



Budding thespians auditioning for the Archers !!

Trainee staff in the Sound Effects Department !!



Visit to the BBC Studios at the Mailbox

In three, relatively small groups, some fifty members and partners visited the Radio and Television Studios last week.

Our trip started in the facilities for Radio WM which comprised of state of the art rooms managed by a central control centre. Whilst most of us stood in awe at the



Gathered in the BBC WM Studio

background complexity, Val quickly took the presenter's seat with confidence and vision for a future career !

Like the famous Tardis (on display in the public area), open-plan offices opened to a vast array of blocks dedicated to some twenty three local and national programmes. Just looking at the IT equipment gave some appreciation of where our Licence Fee goes ! All material to be 'aired' goes through the very complex editing suites - often cutting down a one hour news item to just one minute !. All the corridors had names to make it easier to navigate the labyrinth. Deep in the heart of the building, a vast room with very large TVs monitoring all the network with a central screen showing any problems as soon as they arose. There were many pictures on the wall depicting personalities from the various radio and TV shows. One quickly realised the system worked on the basis of an Iceberg - for the few faces you saw presenting above the surface there was a vast array of support staff submerged below.

In the Archers studio, there was a strange mixture of schoolboy sound equipment and futuristic baffle boards, before examining the simple set of The Politics Show. On one staircase there are photos celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Archers. Finally we witnessed the countdown from National News to Midlands Today as Nick Owen and Suzanne Verdi rehearsed the show.

Before leaving there was an opportunity to star in and record our own mystery play (on Thursday it was an Archers script) to much amusement. We always knew there some good actors within Probus but never appreciated such Thespian quality just waiting to be discovered !

David Rooke

A Winter's stroll in Sutton Park

On a very grey and dull Thursday morning at the beginning of February, thirty walkers met on the car park of the Boat House Restaurant in Sutton Park. The walk leader was Roy Willson.

He lead the walk away from the restaurant, along a tree-lined road and



across open parkland where we had a very special sighting of the lovely New Forest ponies. As we made our way further into the park you could see recent activity by the Park Staff. Many trees had been felled and a great deal of gorse removed, making way for new saplings which were ready to be planted.

The walk continued across an area that was very wet and muddy eventually reaching the part of the park where the World Scout Jamboree was held way back in the 1950's. A stone obelisk had been erected to commemorate the event. After a brief stop we started to make our way back through some picturesque woodland - over a railway bridge and through an area where more trees were being felled on the side of the railway line. Reaching the lake (Bracebridge Pool) we were now very close the Boat House where we watched a heron feeding. The heron seemed to be having better luck than three guys fishing !! (They said they had not had a bite all morning !).

Arriving back at the Boat House we changed boots for shoes and were met by ten non-walkers who joined us for lunch. After a very pleasant meal our President - Selby - thanked Mary and Roy for a delightful walk. For some strange reason Roy was unable to persuade the sun to shine but the day remained relatively dry.

John Fellows

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2011

Mon Feb 28

Speech by Prof Janet Lord on how to "Age Well". Afternoon session in All Saints' Church Hall, Foley Road. Open to Members and Partners.
Start time 1.30pm for 2.00pm. Cost £2.50

Thurs March 10

Coach trip to Denby Pottery at Derby. Visit the factory, cooking demonstration and numerous good shops.

Thurs March 17

Bucks Fizz Amble

Sat April 9

Barn Dance at All Saints' Hall, Belwell Lane. Top Caller, Garth Reynolds backed by The Boys of Oakhill Band. Refreshments.

Fri July 8th

President's Supper at the Terrace Restaurant.

Bucks Fizz walk

Date: Thursday March 17th

Time: 10 am for Buck's Fizz

12.15: Meal

Venue: BF at Harry and Annette Medcalf's home.

Meal: The Old Irish Harp, Chester Road, Aldridge, West Midlands

Cost Bucks Fizz £1.00 per head.:

Coordinator: Brian Spencer

Starter and Light Bite about £ 8.50 Mains £7.75'ish Puds: £3.50 order on the day.

Amble starts at 11.00 am from Old Irish Harp about 2.5mls maybe an odd stile. Time needs to be allowed to get from Harry and Annette's to Old Irish Harp. (about 10 minutes along Walsall Road where Little Aston Cross Roads with the Chester Road)

Kitchen Rota Thurs 24th Feb

John Longmore

Harry Medcalf

Barry Parsonage

Ivor Wesley

Roy Willson

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary



Kitchen Rota Thurs 24th Mar

Bill Arnott

Peter Gray

Denis Perkins

Peter Prime

Brian Spencer

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

Date	Event	Speaker\ Coordinator	Vote Of Thanks	Newsletter Report
Thur 24th Feb	Airborne Operations	Alan Hartley	Terry Booth	Ray Clark
Mon 28th Feb	Maintaining Health (£2.50)	Professor Janet Lord	Arrive at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start	
Mon 7th Mar	Long Walk - South Birmingham	Rod Crowley	Depart from Roy's 9.30am	
Thur 10th Mar	Coach trip—Denby Pottery (14.50)	David Rooke		
Mon 14th Mar	Computer Club - Aspects of using MS Word	Tony Ferneyhough	Starting at 2.00pm	
Thur 17th Mar	Short Walk - Bucks Fizz	Brian Spencer	Meet at Annette and Harry Medcalf's house 10.00am	
Thur 24 Mar	The Burton Brewing Industry	John Bonnett	John Longmore	Graham Jones
Thur 31 Mar	Long Walk - Shropshire	Don Cooper	Depart from Roy's 9.30 am	
Sat 9th Apr	Barn Dance (£16)	David Rooke Jim Bailey		
Mon 11th Apr	Computer club	Tony Ferneyhough		
Thur 14th Apr	Short Walk and Pub Lunch	Roy Willson		
Thur 21st Apr	Long Walk - Peak District	David Rooke	Depart from Roy's 9.30am	
Thur 28th Apr	Annual General Meeting			Mike Lock
Mon 9th May	Long Walk - Leicestershire	Geoff Silvester	Depart from Roy's 9.30am	
Thur 12th May	Coach trip - Waddesdon Manor	Brian Mallett		
Thur 19th May	Short Walk and Pub Lunch	Roy Willson		
Thur 26th May	Friends of the Black Country Museum	David Baker	Richard Humphrey	Harry Medcalf
Thur 2nd June	Long Walk - Cotswolds	Dennis Rose	Depart from Roy's 9.30am	