

Sutton Park Probus Club



Web Site: <http://suttonparkprobus.wordpress.com>

Issue 135

January 2010

CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT MOOR HALL

The highlight of the Club's year took place on Friday 11th December in the familiar and comfortable function room at Moor Hall Hotel, attended by 93 members, wives and guests. On arrival we were invited to take a glass of wine and time was allowed for members and wives to socialise.

Before the commencement of the meal Richard Humphrey, President welcomed the guests, members and wives. We were pleased to have Brian Samways and his wife Jackie present. Brian, who no longer lives in the district, was our first club president and chaired the first Christmas dinner at Moor Hall Hotel in 1998.

Grace was said by Mike Terry and as in the past Moor Hall Hotel provided us with a delicious four course meal, efficiently served, which fully supported our continued use of the hotel for the Christmas lunch. The loyal toast was given by Harry Medcalf.

Our President proposed the toast to the guests



and this was eloquently responded to by Mike Barnes, President of Sutton Coldfield Vesey Rotary Club and who was an appropriate guest to invite as Vesey Rotary were responsible for the creation of Sutton Park Probus Club. Vice-President Selby Betts proposed the toast to the Club.



The entertainment was provided by Paul Lumsden who has played many lead and principle roles in local operatic societies including 'Tervye' in Fiddler on the Roof, 'Doolittle' in My Fair Lady and 'Mack Sennett' in Mack and Mabel and he has just been cast in his first professional stage musical as Frank Sinatra. He started his performance on a Christmas theme with 'Sleigh Bells' followed by several Frank Sinatra favourites, then a range of tunes from My Fair Lady, Showboat and other musicals. He finished his enjoyable act with 'I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas', which had us all singing and



brought several couples out dancing in the aisles.

A raffle was held and the draw was made by the President's wife Annette Humphrey. The first winner out was Peter Gray.

The event concluded with a few words by the President and much thanks must go to the Master of Ceremony, Brian Harbourne and the Event Manager, John Purnell for ensuring we all had a very pleasurable time.

John Booth



December Long Walk

The day started with a cold grey sky and a suggestion of rain in the air. Five of us - Geoff and Sheila, Dennis, Gill and myself - met in the Car Park at Brewood, and began our walk through the Staffordshire countryside. In better weather we would have seen the gentle landscape, but the fields and trees were partly lost on the mist.

Of styles there were "one or two" **, but of mud there was enough to satisfy everyone, and the party made its way across ground that was damp underfoot. The length of the walk according to the guide book was 5 miles, but two independent measurements by pedometer and GPS made it 6.4 and 6.5 miles. You can never trust these route descriptions !..

Although the weather was poor we ended it in sunshine, which was a good way to finish the walk. As one of us so admirably summed it up "It was a pity that we walked in poor weather - but an even greater pity if we hadn't ". Well said !!

** a euphemism

Alfred Wallwork

Luncheon at The College of Food

On January 21st sixty-seven members returned for the seventh time for luncheon at the Birmingham College of Food, three having to send their apologies, at the last moment, for various medical reasons.



Presidents' trousers on the one table. Not to be outdone the members sitting at the adjacent table succeeded in spilling the contents of a bottle of red wine. These two potential disasters were

Although the choice of menu was not as wide as it used to be, presumably in an effort to reduce costs, nevertheless the food was of its usual high standard. The courses were served by some of the first and second year students, supervised by Jackie (a college lecturer) and a selection of third year students. SPP managed to test the quality of the training by arranging for a glass of water to be spilt down the



quickly and efficiently dealt with.

I happened to be sitting at the Presidents table and I must confess that I have never seen him react so quickly as when the water started to cascade down from the edge of the table. Would that he could always react as fast when he is playing in our weekly Bridge competitions. However he had recovered his composure sufficiently well to give his usual amusing speech to thank Brian Mallett for his excellent organization.

The enjoyment of the members on the day was obvious, giving the strong impression that there would be plenty of support to continue this event next January. **Tim Daly**

On a very Wintery Monday afternoon 14 of us meet up for the first computer meeting.. It was appreciated that most managed to share transport as the parking is very restricted.. A PowerPoint presentation about modern day requirements for a PC was followed by a quick cuppa.. The remainder of the meeting included showed how easy it is to transport program/files/pictures on a memory stick.. We transferred files onto our computers and used the rest of the time getting started with a simple digital photo editor.

Last Sunday the Bridge group had the annual meeting at Don Paco's—an Italian/Spanish restaurant in Burnetts Road. Nineteen of us had an excellent meal in good company. During courses a home-grown floor show ensued with Don and Richard enacting how different the Battle of Trafalgar would have been if Health and Safety had had their way !! Denis managed to steal the show with a detailed story he was relating to Yvonne.. By some strange quirk at that time there was a lapse in conversation. The story ended abruptly and we never did discover the ending to the story !! How Don managed to remember the joke with all those T's was truly very clever. (You may have to ask him to retell the story)..

Well done Mike for looking after us.

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 28th Jan	Land's End to John O'Groats	Phil Alliso	Mike Terry	Graham Jones
Mon 1st Feb	Computer meeting (please bring laptops)	Tony Ferneyhough	Start at 2.00 pm	
Thur 4th Feb	Long Walk - Peak District	Rod Crowley	Meet at Roy's 0930 am	
Thur 11th Feb	Bucks Fizz - Fred & Val Nightingale (£10)	Brian Spencer	Meet at Fred's 1000 am	
Fri 19th Feb	Fine Dining - Packington Moor Farm (£25)	John Cheal	Arrive at 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm	
Thur 25th Feb	The Way We Were 1936 - 1954	John Parkes	Terry Booth	John Wallis
Mon 1st Mar	Long Walk - Wenlock Area	Barry Gill	Meet at Roy's 0930 am	
Mon 8th Mar	Computer meeting (bring your laptops)	Tony Ferneyhough	Start 2.00 pm	
Thur 18th Mar	Amble and Pub Lunch TBA	Roy Willson		
Thur 25th Mar	Malaysian Adventure	Gabriella	Fred Ditchfield	Paul Sadler

Kitchen Thur 25th Feb

Charles Sitch

Derek Smith

Brain Spencer

Don Cooper

Peter Prime

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

Pub Amble

The next Pub Amble will be Thurs 11th February - Bucks Fizz. Start at Val and Fred's.

Meal at Miller and Carter at 12.30. It's a linear walk and you will need to arrange transport back to the cars.

Kitchen Rota Thur 21st Jan

John Purnell

Peter Grey

Fred Nightingale

Barry Parsonage

Denis Perkins

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

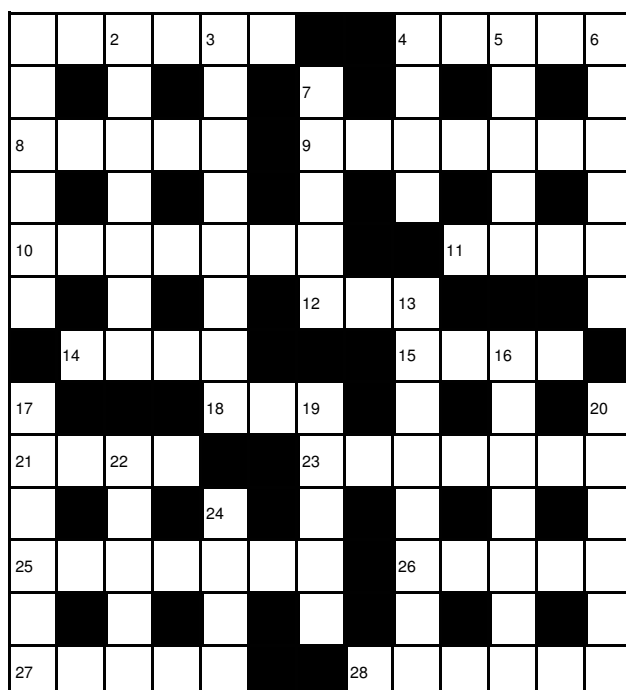
Editor's Notes

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 (**David Rooke**) will submit extracts of articles and photos to the local press.



Across

1. Old Latin rulers (6)
4. Do they know anything (5)
8. Would fish like this (5)
9. Lineout men (7)
10. Beans and ivy could be these (7)
11. Remains of fire goes east, tennis player (4)
12. A hungry German (3)
14. Exist twice (4)
15. Not many times for a cone (4)
18. Mantle quietly gone, a bit small for a man (3)
21. Alive inside a foot, close your digits (4)
23. Get these nearly nude at school (7)
25. Copy the ape (6)
26. Poor peoples wants (5)
27. Aerials on ships (5)
28. One foe each male offspring (6)

Down

1. Measures in government (6)
2. Pieces of time (7)
3. French no with logic is meaningless (8)
4. Scottish place making music (4)
5. Are they finished before thy start (5)
6. Sibling (6)
7. Cannibals like some (5)
13. Never after this date (8)
16. Barrels or pigeons maybe (7)
17. The company agrees (6)
19. Fast at sea (5)
20. Request male son (6)
22. Lots of 19d (5)
24. Could be chocolate planet (4)

