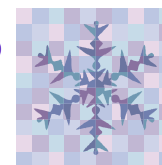


## Sutton Park Probus Club

( Founded in 1998 )



**President: Selby Betts**

**Issue 147 January 2010**

### Moor Hall Christmas Lunch

On Friday 10th December 100 people met up at the Charter Suite at Moor Hall for Christmas Lunch.. It's an event in our calendar that we all look forward to. The customary 'Meet and Greet' by the President and his lady wife Joan was accompanied by a very welcome glass of wine. Before being called in for the lunch there was much lively chatter in the lobby from the expectant visitors and members alike.



Once assembled at our respective tables, and the President's group escorted in, grace was said by Ron Ryman. An excellent four course meal followed with the loyal toast by

Fred Ditchfield. The President gave the toast to the guests with a response by Mike Harrison President of Vesey Rotary. The Toast to the club was carried out by President-elect, Fred Nightingale.

The meal was followed by a one act show put on by Singer/Entertainer Simon Horton who got us tapping our feet, singing along and dancing around the room to the strains of New York, New York. I'm not sure all that exercise after a sumptuous meal is good for you - but hey - it was well-received and great fun !!

It seemed appropriate whilst the vast majority of the club was present to make a special presentation to Mike Terry who has provided a meeting place for the Computer Club.

Joan Betts our President's wife carried out the raffle of bottles of wine. The very pleasant afternoon drew to a close with Selby thanking all those who helped.

David Rooke ensured that - as Master of Ceremonies - the continuity ran smoothly.. John Purnell was Event Manager for the day. A good job chaps - well done.



### 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.



### New Years Honours

It's with great pleasure to announce that one of our members - David Roy is to receive the OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire), from the Queen later this year. On behalf of all the members - congratulations David, a worthy achievement for a popular member.

OBE award is credit to whole team says former Lord Mayor

This is his modest quote from a recent Sutton Coldfield Observer.

### Long Walk at Kenilworth

Yet another memorable walk. First a visit to Roy Willson, our inimitable weather oracle. This paid handsome dividends as we had none of the rain and sleet of the day before nor the heavy snowfall on the day following the walk.

Our start point was historic Kenilworth Castle where the famous mere had been drained. From there; across some farmer's field, one of which must have received the water from the mere ! Our walk leader (Alf Wallwork) did inform us, beforehand, that one of the fields might be 'a little muddy'.



the SPPC Walkers' Male Voice Choir.

The well-reconnoitred walk, with an idea setting for lunch, was seven miles long - with no stiles, no undulating ground and excellent weather.

Our special thanks to Alf Wallwork for arranging this unique walk.

Incidentally, Alf will be delighted to know that I was unable to find any green ink !

**Richard Humphrey**



Although our constitution states that we are a non-fundraising Club, throughout the year raffle tickets, Poppy Appeal etc are offered to the members. This time we have a winner from a Christmas Raffle.. Congrats go to Harry Medcalf.

### Editorial

It's the start of a New Year and there are many activities already lined up for us. A yearly trip to the College of Food proved to be as popular as ever. Unfortunately Gwen and Brian set out but did not appear.. It seems that the trusty lifting mechanism failed at the curb-side and they had to return home hungry !! Hopefully the fault has now been rectified. Trips to the BBC studios in the Mailbox has proved to be very popular. As I understand it there are no spaces left but, you may like to check with David Rooke.

A new venture coming up is the Barn Dance. This type of activity is proving to be ever popular.. I've been to many - still no idea what I'm supposed to do !! Only come along if you wish to laugh yourselves silly !! The evening promises to be truly great fun !! Come along and burn off a few pounds !!

Before then a trip to Denby Pottery should be a very worth while experience. We will all be travelling together on the coach. There should be a board out at the next meeting.. We have another coach trip in May going to Waddesdon Manor.

It's been said before that the success of the club depends members taking part. Also, the tremendous (unpaid !) time and effort that goes into each and every event ensures a great time for everyone.

### The gorilla's revenge

The pro at the country club was rude. When he beat you on the golf course he not only took your money he then told you everything you did wrong and suggested that you would never be able to hit the ball out of your own shadow. One of the members had enough, so he bought a gorilla and trained it to play golf. He then set up a game with the pro--\$1000 a side with automatics.

The day of the match arrived and all parties were ready. The first hole was a par five of 575 yards. The pro teed off splitting the fairway some 270 yards out.

The gorilla lumbered up to the tee. Placed the ball on the ground and made a mighty swing. The ball rocketed off the clubface 100, 200, 300, 400, 500, 575 yards and stopped 5 inches from the cup. The pro just about fell out of his pants. If this was an indication of the way things were going to go then he would never live it down. He immediately settled the bet, remembering that he had urgent business across town.

As they walked from the tee the pro asked, "How does he putt?" The same as he drives, 575 yards, was the answer.

## Annul Visit to the Birmingham College of Food

In January forty-five members, wives and partners met for luncheon at the Birmingham College of Food for the ever-popular first social event of the calendar year. Could it really be six weeks since we last met? In that time Christmas and the New Year had come and gone and England had retained the Ashes in the presence of our jet setting President Selby. Thus the stage was set for plenty of catch-up chat and an ambitious



three-course menu prepared for us by the students.

As usual the dining room was set to a high standard, with pristine linen, elaborately folded napkins, sparkling cutlery and gleaming glasses. Clearly the first and second year students had been busy long before we arrived and it was good to

see these youngsters doing their level best to make the visit so enjoyable.

We have come to expect good food on these occasions and this year was no exception, with a choice of six starters, four main courses and a range



of sweets to choose from. Even when additional alternatives were unexpectedly requested, the student kitchen staff met the requests in some style.

Unfortunately for various reasons many late apologies were received this year, but the College nevertheless waived cancellation costs and only charged for those actually dining. This

gesture was typical of the way in which we were treated on the day, with excellent food, service and unfailing courtesy.

In a closing President Selby thanked Brian Mallet for organising the event and congratulated the students, their lecturer Jackie and the College for another most enjoyable occasion; sentiments which were warmly endorsed by those present.

**Bryan Nicholas**

## Bucks Fizz walk

Date: Thursday March 17th

Time: 10 am for BF

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 to the Little Aston Cross Roads with the Chester Road)

People are so worried about what they eat between Christmas and the New Year, but they really should be worried about what they eat between the New Year and Christmas. ~Author Unknown

## Recent visit to my doctor

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not a retiree should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the retiree and ask him or her to empty the bathtub" "Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Are you going to pass this on, or do you want the bed next to mine?

## 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.

## Pub Amble

**Date :** Thursday 10th February

**Times:** Walk 1030 Lunch 1230

**Restaurant :** Boat House, Bracebridge Pool.

**Cost of Meal:** £12.00 for 2 courses.

**Walk:** An easy walk mostly on paths with no stiles.

**Please wear suitable footwear.**

Walkers are asked to park at the large car park on the left. There may be a locked gate near the restaurant. Diners can go direct.

**ALL MUST BOOK with Roy Willson** the organiser.

### **Kitchen Rota Thurs 27th Jan**

**John Cheal**

**Ray Clark**

**Roy Galloway**

**Brian Senior**

**Dennis Wright**

**Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary**



### **Kitchen Rota Mon 28th Feb**

**John Longmore**

**Harry Medcalf**

**Barry Parsonage**

**Ivor Wesley**

**Roy Willson**

**Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary**

| Date                 | Event                                          | Speaker\Coordinator                     | Vote Of Thanks                                                               | Newsletter Report   |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Thur 27 Jan</b>   | <b>Moving Objects</b>                          | <b>Andrew Goodman</b>                   | <b>Tim Daly</b>                                                              | <b>John Booth</b>   |
| <b>Mon 7th Feb</b>   | Long Walk - Cotswolds                          | <b>Alfred Wallwork</b>                  | Because of the shorter days the start time at Roy's has been moved to 9.00am |                     |
| <b>Thur 10th Feb</b> | Short walk and Pub Lunch (£12)                 | <b>Roy Willson</b>                      | Walkers meet at car park above Bracebridge pool at 1015am                    |                     |
| <b>Mon 14th Feb</b>  | Computer Club - Backing up Files               | <b>Tony Ferneyhough</b>                 | Starting at 2.00pm                                                           |                     |
| <b>Thur 17th Feb</b> | Trip to the BBC Studios in the Mailbox (£5.75) | <b>David Rooke</b><br><b>Jim Bailey</b> | Additional trip on Tues 15th Feb                                             |                     |
| <b>Thur 24th Feb</b> | <b>Airborne Operations</b>                     | <b>Alan Hartley</b>                     | <b>Terry Booth</b>                                                           | <b>Ray Clark</b>    |
| <b>Mon 28th Feb</b>  | <b>Maintaining Health (£2.50)</b>              | <b>Professor Janet Lord</b>             | Arrive at 1.30pm for 2.00pm start                                            |                     |
| <b>Mon 7th Mar</b>   | Long Walk - South Birmingham                   | <b>David Rooke</b>                      | Depart from Roy's 9.30am                                                     |                     |
| <b>Thur 10th Mar</b> | Coach trip—Denby Pottery (14.50)               | <b>David Rooke</b>                      |                                                                              |                     |
| <b>Mon 14th Mar</b>  | Computer Club - Aspects of using MS Word       | <b>Tony Ferneyhough</b>                 | Starting at 2.00pm                                                           |                     |
| <b>Thur 17th Mar</b> | Short Walk - Bucks Fizz                        | <b>Brian Spencer</b>                    | Meet at Annette and Harry Medcalf's house 10.00am                            |                     |
| <b>Thur 24 Mar</b>   | <b>The Burton Brewing Industry</b>             | <b>John Bonnett</b>                     | <b>John Fellows</b>                                                          | <b>Graham Jones</b> |
| <b>Thur 31 Mar</b>   | Long Walk - Shropshire                         | <b>Don Cooper</b>                       | Depart from Roy's 9.30 am                                                    |                     |
| <b>Sat 9th Apr</b>   | Barn Dance (£16)                               | <b>David Rooke</b><br><b>Jim Bailey</b> |                                                                              |                     |
| <b>Thur 14th Apr</b> | Short Walk and Pub Lunch                       | <b>Roy Willson</b>                      |                                                                              |                     |
| <b>Thur 21st Apr</b> | Long Walk - Peak District                      | <b>Rod Crowley</b>                      | Depart from Roy's 9.30am                                                     |                     |
| <b>Thur 28th Apr</b> | <b>Annual General Meeting</b>                  |                                         |                                                                              | <b>Mike Lock</b>    |
| <b>Mon 9th May</b>   | Long Walk                                      | <b>Geoff Silvester</b>                  | Depart from Roy's 9.30am                                                     |                     |