

Sutton Park Probus Club (Founded in 1998)



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

Issue 141

July 2010

The Presidents Midsummer Supper



On arrival at this years venue, "Packington Moor Farm", members, wives, partners and guests were welcomed to either bucks fizz or orange juice, a very welcome refreshment, as for once the climate resembled summer. The party atmosphere continued until our master of ceremonies David Rooke invited us formally, but nicely! to make our way to our designated tables in order to welcome our president, his wife, family and his guests, which we did enthusiastically all the way to the top table. Once seated our president warmly welcomed our guests and visitors to this years midsummer supper. Fred Nightingale said grace and dinner was served, a great im-

provement on the previous visit to Packington Moor Farm. The food was excellent and plentiful, served in a friendly and efficient way, I believe this to be a general consensus of the members and all the staff at Packington should be commended. With dinner over Harry Medcalf proposed the loyal toast, as still the newest member, he suggested it could be an annual event for him, due to the present memberships state of health!

After a brief interval Brian Harbourne rose to toast the club, with some interesting definitions of the word "club", I did notice he missed a few out such as strip, snooker and gambling!!

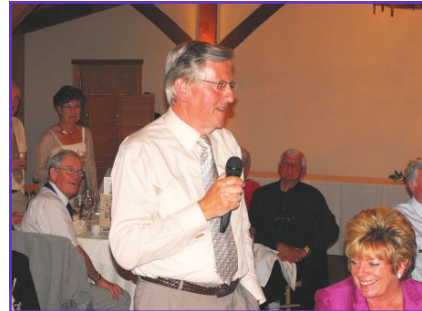


Followed by David Roy who delivered the toast to the ladies with some funny and expertly told jokes, we really do have some excellent speakers in our membership.

June Keeley responded in a warm and friendly way on behalf of the ladies and presented flowers were presented to June. Fred Nightingale presented flowers to the president's wife Joan

The entertainment for the night was quite informative and very different. It was announced that we had royalty in the room and a very stout man as Henry VIII no less (!) looking well for his age. He reminded us that we were his loyal subjects and to obey him, he demanded that we rise and greet our King. At one point President Selby

had to remind him that he was in charge tonight!! and rightly so, Henry VIII mumbled a response, then continued to recite his life in a robust manner, including graphic details of the executions of his wives, his state of health also his children, (the ones he could remember!) With the questions asked to our King, I thought some of our members might lose their heads!!! For this period of history to be explained in such an interactive - and articulate way was quite unique and refreshing. Our evening concluded with our president thanking the master of ceremonies David Rooke and event manager John Cheal for a most enjoyable evening for all. **Mike Terry**



“Work of a Coroner” by Reg Browning



Reg Browning qualified as a solicitor in 1958 and worked in Staffordshire where he became a deputy coroner in 1964 and coroner in 1987, a post he held until he retired in 2000.

He began his talk by defining a coroner as an independent judicial officer, either a lawyer (solicitor or barrister) or a doctor, acting on behalf of the crown to establish the facts relating to deaths that occurred suddenly, violently or in unusual circumstances. He summarised the required qualities for a coroner as determination, patience, firmness and, above all, compassion.

The name “coroner” describes an ancient office dating back to 1194, and contrasts with the American term which, in this country, would translate

as pathologist.

In his work a coroner is assisted by a coroners officer, usually a police officer, who conducts investigative duties and also liaises with relatives and next of kin to minimise what for many is a stressful undertaking to appear before a coroners court. In special circumstances, for example when a death in prison is involved or the subject is treasure (usually discovered gold or silver items) a coroner’s court involves a jury otherwise it is for the coroner to deliver a verdict.

Reg was clear about the different attitude towards duties according to the coroner’s background in the legal or medical profession, with the former slanted towards the events that led to the death and the latter more towards the medical reasons.

An entertaining account of life in an interesting profession.

Ian Scholes

Boogie Nights at Sutton Town Hall – 14th October – 7.30pm

The musical **Boogie Nights** starts in the 1970s and moves forward, enabling us to enjoy musical numbers that will be familiar. It was first performed in the West End in 1998.

Roddy is a character whose life consists of women, booze and boogie. He meets Debs and the story unfolds.

It is a song and dance show that should set your feet a-tapping.

We have reserved a number of seats so that we may all sit together. The price is £13 **Brian Mallett**

AMBLE - SUTTON PARK 8 JULY

A large and happy group met at Park House in typical Roy Willson weather for our guided walk to be led by Derek Smith. 200 yards from the start Derek pointed out areas where the first green and bunker would



have been on the original 9 hole golf course created in Sutton Park by the Rev. Riland Bedford in 1880.

Some 20 minutes later we approached Powells Pool and happily went into Miller and Carter's Restaurant where we were efficiently served coffee and biscuits on the sundeck - BLISS (some even thought we were then going to walk back to Park House for lunch but this was not to be)

We resumed our walk to the area in the park where model aeroplanes are flown and were told that it was on this site in the second world war that Sherman tanks were put through their paces and troops were taught to drive and handle the guns. Unfortunately the tanks were lightly armoured and petrol driven so were vulnerable to the superior fire power of German tanks and many troops died or were seriously injured.

On towards the Jamboree stone and at Keepers Pool Richard Humphrey told the tale that it was here Henry VIII was saved by a lady dressed in green from being killed by a wild boar - leading to the legend that Henry VIII penned 'Greensleeves' On our way back we passed the Elizabeth Svendsen Trust Donkey Sanctuary which enables children with disabilities and special needs to ride these donkeys, and as Derek said a visit is well worth your time. An excellent lunch and drinks at last - and a most enjoyable and informative walk.

Sincere thanks to Derek and Norma for their time and efforts

Ron Ryman

July 26th Long Walk: Ashton under Hill Near Tewkesbury

Meet: Roy Willson's 9.15. Leave at 9.30

Directions: Go via M5 to J 9 at Tewkesbury. Take A46/ A438 towards Evesham.

Bear left Teddington Hands Island turn left at sign post Ashton under Hill after 4 miles or so. About 8 miles from Tewkesbury Meet in main street near The Star Pub

Walk: about 6 miles or so. Quite hilly, views are fantastic **Brian Spencer**

Please inform **Ron Ryman** 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
Thu 22nd July	Life as Lord Mayor of Birmingham	Jim Worwood	John Buckland	Brian Nicholas
Mon 26th July	Long Walk - Cotswolds	Brian Spencer	Meet at Roy's 09.15 am	
Sun 8th Aug	'The Garden Party' BBQ + Jazz (£23)	John Buckland	At John & Marlene Fellows	
Thur 19th Aug	Pub Amble The Dog and Doublet (£7.5-£10)	Roy Willson	10.30 Start	
Thur 26 Aug	The Miners' Strike and Arthur Scargill	Mike Harrison	John Cheal	Roy Galloway
Thur 2 Sept	Long Walk - Peak District	Rod Crowley	Meet at Roy's 09.15am	
12th - 15th Sept	Autumn Break - Bath	David Rooke		
Thur 16 h Sept	Pub Amble - TBA	Roy Willson		
Thur 23rd Sept	Ups & Downs of a Helicopter Pilot	Joylon MacLaine	Ray Clark	Brian Mallett
Thur 30th Sept	Long Walk - West Birmingham	David Rooke	Meet at Roy's 09.15am	

Kitchen Rota Thur 26th Aug

Peter Gray

Brian Mallett

Denis Perkins

John Purnell

Mike Terry

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary



Kitchen Rota Thur 22nd July

John Longmore

Peter Prime

Harry Medcalf

Ernest Williams

Roy Wilson

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

August Pub Amble

Date: August 19th Time: Walk 10.30 Lunch 12.30

Pub: The Dog and Doublet, Bodymoor Heath. B76 9JD

Directions: Follow A 4091 to Bodymoor Heath Road.. Along road towards Kingsbury Water Park. As you cross steep canal bridge indicate to turn right signed Marston Farm Hotel. About 200 yards turn right for pub.

Cost of Meal: Varies form £7.50 to £10 dependant upon choice

Walk: An easy walk along canal paths, fields and into Kingsbury Water Park. No Stiles

Organiser: Roy Willson

The Burton Dassett Hills, Banbury

Eleven of us set off in clear, cool weather with the prospect of some sun and some rain. There was the most striking view from the car park that many of us had witnessed, and the object that drew everyone's attention was the shell of an ancient beacon at the top a slope in the ground.

The first part of our journey was downhill and into the village of Fenny Compton. We turned to walk south east and to meet our first field of cereal crops, wheat in this instance. It is a most enjoyable experience to walk along a path through the huge fields that farmers now have for raising cereals. Due to the unusually dry weather that we have had, the ground was severely cracked in both depth and width, and gave the impression that there had been an earthquake. We came to another such field, but this time the crop was a higher, and the field beyond that had beans, which needed even more effort to walk through.



Eventually we came to the village of Farnborough and sat on the low wall round the church graveyard to have our sandwiches. We set off once more and after a short while came to – believe it or not – a field of cereals. Making our way through to the opposite side we climbed the stile and were confronted with a field of “oilseed rape”, approximately 5 feet high. O.K. for the average 6 footer, but not so good for anyone embarrassed by height. A brief discussion then took place, as our Walk Leader had very thoughtfully found an alternative way round the field using the local roads. A decision was needed and a cry went up “Rape or Road”.

The vote was unanimous !!!

We turned north west, passed through Avon Bassett village and began a series of ascents over numerous hills and stiles that eventually led us back to our starting point. No car park tickets had been obtained as the ticket machine was jammed and had disgorged all its money when one of our members tried to use it. If only we had been by a village pub when this story was fresh news, we could have insisted on him buying plates of chips for each of us !.

We had a really good day out and one which will live in our memories for its fields of cereals. Many thanks to you, Dennis, and to Fred. It was a great walk. **Alfred Wallwork**

En passant, can I say that I am lost in admiration for the applied skills you (Mike) used in constructing the matrix for the Windmill Bowls Day Competition. My simple mind boggles at the number of variables you must have taken into your calculations to ensure that none of us played any one else more than once. Further, a little bird tells me that you had arranged a different matrix to use, should the proportion of gentlemen to ladies alter on the day. I won't ask you to explain it to me.....I still wouldn't understand.....but just to say, as has been said in the June's Newsletter.....well done indeed! “

I think that Unsung Heroes might be a title for further articles on Club Members' roles and keeping the club as it is. (I sincerely echo these thoughts. Ed.)

Inter-Club Probus Golf 2010

A very enjoyable day out at Stonebridge Golf Club was the verdict of the six Probus Clubs that contested the trophy. Meeting everyone at 9.00am for bacon rolls and coffee followed by golf and a meal ensured that we were all able to enjoy the day in true Probus fashion.

It is a pleasure to report that Sutton Park Probus Club retained the cup due to the efforts of Selby Betts and Brian Mallett. A further plus is that the best score of the day was by Selby.

A mixture of electricity and water

32 members and wives boarded a coach to travel up North to Crich Tramway Museum and Village. There was lots to see and marvel at in the extensive exhibition halls and workshops. Over 50 trams from all over the world had been assembled, and illustrated the history of the tram from those drawn by horses and steam locomotives to those of the electric era. In exchange for "spending a penny" we were given a tram ticket by the "clippie" which we could use all day - all men are boys at heart, and the driver even knew Jim & Sylvia! The mile long excursion took us past a lead mine display and a working quarry to enjoy stunning views over the Derwent valley. Old fashioned shops in the cobbled street gave us a sense of nostalgia, especially the sweet shop, although this is not the one where the



Probus "sweetie monitor" gets his supplies! In Rita's Tearooms, we were pleased to see the lady herself partaking, so we knew the food and drink would be OK.

After about two hours we then made our way to Carsington Water where there are many water sports activities and a wildlife centre. The



interactive exhibition by Severn Trent Water on the "Water Story" of cleaning sewage to produce high quality drinking water was very interesting. By the shops surrounding a courtyard is a remarkable centrepiece called the Kugel Stone, a ball of granite weighing over 1 tonne and which revolves on a thin film of water under pressure. It can be moved with the touch of your hand! Most of us had lunch in the Mainsail Restaurant but a few hardy ones had a picnic and got caught in a shower.



On the way home we were treated to "John's Jokes" (even the coach driver seemed amused); then a silence descended, can't think why!



Another excellent day out and thanks to John Cheal for arranging the trip and to Jim Bailey for counting "heads" to make sure no-one went missing. **Mike Lock**



Sutton Park Probus Computer Club

Earlier this year arrangements were made to setup a self help group to try to have a greater understanding of modern day computers. With any project like this a venue is crucial as to whether or not this type of venture would succeed. A very generous offer was made by Mike Terry whereby we would be able to use the Board Room at his Company Premises. It has been said on many occasions, this is what SPPC is all about.

The meetings finished in June but will recommence in September. There have been many suggestions as to which topics could be covered.. Backing up of important files, the use of Ebay, using VOIP - Skype and lots more.. If you would like to come along please let me know by the August meeting.

I am absolutely certain that those who availed themselves by coming along would like to say a BIG thank you to Mike and his staff.. **Tony Ferneyhough**

In the Summer Time

Today (Tuesday) the Probus men met again at the Conservative Club for the weekly bowls. This is usually a very competitive morning and greatly enjoyed by all. Our organiser Mr. G. Syl-



vester Esq. has us all sorted into teams and our Sandwich orders sent to the bar at the start so that we can all look forward to drinks and "Sarnies" which are VERY popular with the men.

Today we had a particularly noisy team (who shall remain nameless) on the green due to the standard of the competition, but all in good fun.

Later in the bar the conversation covers a multitude of subjects mixed with a great deal of laughter. Once again our thanks to Geoff, we all look forward to Tuesdays bowls and good company. **Jim Bailey**



Two hundred years ago this was how practitioners in England (a centre of sophisticated medical care at the time) treated toothache:

"In order to relieve the tooth-ache, we must first endeavour to lessen the flux of humours to the part affected. This may be done by mild purgatives, scarifying the gums, or applying leeches to them, and bathing the feet frequently with warm water. The perspiration ought likewise to be promoted, by drinking freely of weak wine-whey, or other diluting liquors with small doses of nitre."

(It's good to know there's been a vast improvement in treatment !!)

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.