

A Walk with Obie

We left Upper Longdon in plenty of time for the walk commencing at 10.30. However, the gaffer decided to use SATNAV and we toured Wolverhampton before arriving at The Mermaid Pub, Wightwick at 10.35. On the pub car park, there were assorted humans in various attire waiting around just talking and obviously waiting for their leader.



We crossed a main road and joined a canal path that gave a pleasant start to the amble. I let a guy in a yellow jacket take my place at the front as he was very keen. After a mile or so, we left the canal and crossed a field where the pathway was narrow and the grass high. This



is where I took my rightful position as leader and set a cracking pace. I passed up on mid morning snack by way of a cocker spaniel as the gaffer would not release the lead. After crossing the road at the end of the field, we all stopped for a drink and M'Lady gave me my water. The weather was now warm and I felt that we needed to up the pace. A terrier came up to me and would have made a good lunch or a playmate, but it was off limits. A leafy glade and another canal path completed the walk which was supposed to be 4 miles but I agreed with the lady with a pedi. that it was longer for I was n---, sorry, tired.

Everyone agreed that it had been an enjoyable walk and they were looking forward to a meal and a drink. They dined together, whilst I dined alone.

Thanks Tony Ferneyhough for the invite

Woof Woof
Obie

Translated from the ancient canine language by Brian Mallett

Sutton Park Probus Club



President: Fred Nightingale

Issue 153 July 2011

'Samuel Johnson – A Man of Many Words'



This was the title of Joanne Wilson's talk to Probus on Thursday 23rd June and it was actually a reference not to a verbose man but someone who successfully collated and published the very first English dictionary.

However to start at the beginning he was born in Lichfield very close to the current Birthplace Museum. Born a very sickly child he was deaf in one ear and blind in one eye. He recorded that he was beaten mercilessly at school, was successful in gaining admission to Pembroke College but was fined after one week for not attending lectures! He actually left in the second year and moved to Birmingham starting writing for a

living and marrying "Tetty" – a lady some twenty years older than himself. He also became involved in a small school where he met David Garrick.

In 1737 they both went to London working in various roles in and around the stage. In 1747 a group of printers and journalists suggested to him an idea which ultimately became his world famous dictionary project. He worked in an attic and was helped by six other assistants. Humour – perhaps unintentionally – crept into the dictionary. For example: *Grain – which in England is generally given to horses, but in Scotland, supports the people*. After 8 years the dictionary was published in 1755 and in recognition he was awarded an Honorary Degree by Oxford University.

His work was further recognised by George III who in 1760 granted him a pension of £300 per annum. A huge sum for those days its equivalent now is about £45,000. By now he had developed a close friendship with Boswell and together they travelled. It was Boswell who wrote his biography. Suffering a stroke in 1783 he died the next year and is buried in Westminster Abbey next to David Garrick. At the conclusion of this informative talk Ron Ryman gave a vote of thanks.

Harry Medcalf.

Now was that Finger (or is it Thumb?)

On a super sunny Summer's morning we all arrived, at the Gentleshaw Inn, to take part in the Annual Bowls Competition organised by Mike Lock..

We were greeted by the bar staff who had prepared coffee and tea to fortify us for the rigours of the day. Mike, ably assisted by David Rooke (who was to be our scorer), organised us into fours for the first round of the competition.



Many of us have been before and were eager to try out our (for some) finely honed skills..The green had lost none of its quirky-ness, with many finding it all too easy to end up in the ditch on more than one occasion !! The bowling progressed well in glorious sunshine and, there was early evidence of brave attempts to master the green!! Four of the seven rounds were played before lunch with several players scoring over 40 in some rounds.

On casting one's eyes round, from the well elevated site, there were excellent views over Cannock Chase but some were not to be distracted from the matter in hand !! ([See website for more pictures](#))

It was time to take a break for lunch where the conversation did not seem to stray too far from the bowling. The staff provided us with first class service and more than adequate helpings of food..

Apparently there was no time for the customary nap and we were soon marshalled back to the green for the final 3 rounds to complete the event.

During one of these rounds a player's wood inadvertently strayed into another head. As he was about to retrieve it there were shouts from across the green "hey !! Don't touch those woods !!". "But" bemoaned the player "this is my wood !!"

The completion drew to a close and our President thanked all those who had made the day possible, presenting prizes to John Buckland for coming first and Pat Buckland - first for the ladies. Not to be too daunted by the day, Mike Lock came in a very creditable second with Pauline Standerwick securing second place for the ladies.

Tony Ferneyhough

Walking at Cleeve Prior

Drunken Bidford seemed to me to be an appropriate starting point for the participants in the monthly walk which took place in glorious weather at the end of last month. Whether this formerly sleepy little village got its name from the number of pubs it encompassed, or the rickety way they, and the dwellings, had been erected, so as to give the appearance of being slightly inebriated, I know not. Suffice to say that 14 of us assembled in the hamlet next door, Cleeve Prior, after following reasonably clear direc-



tions given by the organiser Rod.

We wended our way across the village, then traversed a green lane, and eventually, after a heavy shower, the only one of the day, had made some of us scuttle for shelter, we attempted to cross a crop field with very sticky soil. Most of it stuck to our boots, and we searched at once for suitable puddles to cleanse them.

Our route was blessed by the presence at sporadic intervals of fruit trees which dotted the hedgerows. Various varieties of plum, and cherry like fruit, which were ripe, presented themselves for our delectation. The more circumspect resisted the temptation, but others filled their metaphorical boots, and first gorged themselves, then took quantities home for making jam !

Further delights, like Pershore Egg Plums, promised to be ready in a couple of weeks time, so I reckon a rapid return visit is a possibility. A quick pit stop, then onward, with views across the Vale of Evesham and beyond were on offer. After a further break we retraced our steps to the hamlet where The Kings Arms welcomed us to a wide menu (with chips of course we didn't want David R to have a tantrum) and other specialities. We all thanked Rod for his organisational expertise, after another great day in the outdoors

Brian Spencer

HIGHGROVE GARDENS – 23 AUGUST 2011

Coach leaves the Church Car Park at 10.00am. Please double up on cars to minimise car parking. Garden tour lasts circa 1½ hours and is approximately 1½ to 2 miles in total. Please wear appropriate footwear. Trip timed for 12.55pm. Tea, Coffee, Cake and Soft Drinks available after the tour.

All visitors must bring some form of identification with them – ideally a passport or photographic driving licence, (alternatively two utility bills).

Co-ordinator = David Rooke

Father Murphy was playing golf with a parishioner.

On the first hole, he sliced into the rough.

His opponent heard him mutter "Hoover !" under his breath.

On the second hole, Father Murphy's ball went straight into a water hazard.

Hoover!" again a little louder this time.

On the third hole, a miracle occurred and Father Murphy's drive landed on the green only six inches from the hole !

"Praise be to God !"

He carefully lined up the putt, but the ball curved around the hole instead of going in. "HOOVER !!!"

By this time, his opponent couldn't withhold his curiosity any longer, and asked why the priest said "Hoover".

"It's the biggest dam I know."

Long walk Monday 8th August - Lowsonford Warwickshire

The walk is approximately 6 miles in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside. There are 10 moderate and small stiles along the walk and three small hills. The walk should take about 2.5 hours and will include a trip to the Henley Ice Cream Parlour on the way round.

Staff at the Fleur de Lys pub have given us permission to park on the car park. Food, snacks and hot meals are served throughout the day. Senior Citizens have a discount of 25% between 12 midday and 3pm..

Walk leader - Graham Jones

President's Supper 2011

Some 90 plus members and guests arrived at the Terrace restaurant having fought through hail, wind and rain, not very Midsummer! or is it?



We were greeted by the President and his wife and treated to a most welcome glass of wine or orange juice and proceeded to socialise in the lounge area.

We were then summoned to dinner by David Rooke, our M. C. for the event, having found our places we welcomed our President Fred Nightingale and his wife Val in the time honoured way.

Grace was said by Paul Beaumont, we then ordered our meals from a most

impressive menu. Our food appeared miraculously on the table without too much wait (how do they do it seemed to be the question on many lips?) Many self indulgent desserts were enjoyed without a trace of quilt from anyone.

Fred Ditchfield proposed the toast to

Her Majesty the Queen and we had a short comfort break. The toast to the club was given by Ian Scholes and David Rooke asked us to raise our glasses to the ladies present this was gracefully responded to by Kath Parsonage who was then presented with a bouquet of flowers by the event manager John Cheal. We also were asked to toast founder members and those who had seen military service.

Following the formal part of the evening we were treated to a performance from Nicky Moran who entertained us with a superbly varied programme which had many members singing along with her, a thoroughly enjoyable treat.

The evening was wound up with a talk from our President showing us what a good sense of humour he had and what fun the coming year will bring under his presidency, it also showed his ability to mount a stage repeatedly !! He thanked us all for our attendance and we in turn would like to thank him and all the people who worked so hard to organise the evening to make sure all went smoothly. WELL DONE !! **Paul Beaumont**



FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2011

30th Sept - 2nd Oct

Autumn Break - Alveston Hall

Thur 13th Oct

Jewellery Museums

Sat 12th Nov

Fine Dining evening - Sutton Coldfield Golf Club

Fri 9th Dec

Christmas Lunch at Moor Hall

Short Walk

Date: Thursday 18th August

Venue for walk: Castle Ring Car Park, Cannock Wood, Near Chase Terrace, about 30 minutes drive from The Hardwick Arms.

Venue for Meal: The Rag, restaurant, Rawnsley, Cannock, Staffs WS12 0QD. This is about ¾ mile from the Castle Ring car park. Retrace road to top of Hayfield Hill, TR then proceed along this road for about 2/3 mile, restaurant is on road junction on LHS.

Time: Walk 10.15 for 10.30 start Meal at The Rag 12.15 pm

Distance: 2.5mils No stiles. The walk is hilly, two uphill walks of 1/3 mile, and one downhill walk of similar length.

The walk is on The Chase in a forested area. It could be muddy after heavy rain.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear.

Menu: Various choices about £11.00 for two courses. **Pre-ordering essential.**

Sheet at July Meeting

Organiser: Brian Spencer. Mobile on the day 07711.127.123

Kitchen Rota Thurs 25th Aug

John Longmore

Selby Betts

Neil Crabb

John Fellows

Ivor Wesley

Graham Jones -Venue Secretary



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Kitchen Rota Thurs 28rd July

Jim Bailey

John Cheal

Ray Clark

Roy Galloway

David Wallis

Graham Jones -Venue Secretary

Date	Event	Speaker\ Coordinator	Vote Of Thanks	Newsletter Report
Thur 28 July	Odes of Life and Laughter	Ken Gilks	Roger Phillips	Brian Senior
Thur 4th Aug	Trip to Ironbridge Museum (£21)	John Cheal	Pick up point to be arranged	
Mon 8th Aug	Long Walk Lowsonford	Graham Jones	Depart from Roy's by 9.30.am	
Wed 10th Aug	The Staffordshire Hoard	David Rooke	Tickets have been distributed	
Thur 18th Aug	Short walk and Pub Lunch	Brian Spencer	Walk starts at 10.30 am	
Tues 23rd Aug	Visit to Highgrove	David Rooke	Depart by coach. See page 6 for more details	
Thur 25 Aug	Brunel. A Victorian Genius	Ray Sturdy	Derek Smith	Brian Spencer
Thur 1st Sept	Long Walk Wenlock Edge	Rod Crowley	Depart from Roy's by 9.30 am	
Thurs 15th Sept	Short Walk	Derek Smith	Walk Starts at 10.30 am	
Thur 22nd Sept	Baron Ash and Packwood House	Mike Miles	Ian Scholes	Bryan Nicholas
30th Sept\ 2nd Oct	Autumn Break - Alveston Hall	Jim Bailey		
Thur 6th Oct	Long Walk Cotswolds	Barry Gill	Depart from Roy's by 9.30 am	
Thur 13th Oct	MMC & Jewellery Museums	David Rooke Jim Bailey	More details later.	
Thur 20th Oct	Short Walk and Pub Lunch	Roy Willson		
Thur 27 Oct	Talk on Pub Signs	David Cole	Jim Bailey	Selby Betts
Mon 7th Nov	Long Walk	Brian Spencer		
Sat 12th Nov	Fine Dining	Brian Mallet	Sutton Coldfield Golf Club	

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