Short walk in Sutton Park

For our short walks we normally start from a nominated pub to return a couple of hours later to dine. It occurred to me that it may be of interest to know some of the history of the Parson and Clerk. I have not been able to establish when the pub was built.

The pub was originally called The Royal Oak and on the top of the building two figures were modelled; a parson leaning his head in prayer and a clerk about to chop off the parson's head with an uplifted axe!

The figures had been placed there by Squire John Gough of Perry hall after a bitter feud with the Reverend Thomas Lane over possession of the building. Petty scores were settled, the Reverend kept the Squire out of the building and the Squire instructed two servants to regularly attend church with the sole purpose of forcing the Reverend to read services. After winning a lawsuit the Squire had the figures added when he rebuilt the building in 1788.

The victorious Squire then added a sign which read 'These buildings were licensed houses and were unlawfully withheld and undermined by the Rev. T Lane and Solomon Smith in 1788, afterwards rebuilt by the lawful owner J Gough Esq. Perry Hall'.

The name of the pub itself however was only changed officially in 1891 (info. Sutton Observer).

Before the walk started I decided to don waterproof trousers. I had a great deal of attention from two of the ladies who made many kindly suggestions on how to fasten them!!The walk itself started from Royal Oak gate passed alongside the golf course where a four ball was in progress. Some of the paths were still too muddy to navigate and a change of plan was in order. We soon found ourselves alongside Keepers Pool. This brings back fond memories of when it was a swimming pool. It was truly sad to see the purpose built pools vandalised and eventually levelled and planted with trees. We strolled up through trees, across an area of the park used by model plane enthusiasts, carefully skirting cattle grazing and back onto the fireroad leading back the our start point. Just before leaving the park two armed police officers passed us by. Not a normal sight for such gentle parkland !!

Thanks to Derek for organising the walk. We finished off the day in the pub for a very pleasant carvery with more members and wives from the club. **Tony Ferneyhough**

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Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: Brian Spencer

No.165 **July 2012**

Annual Bowls Day

The trip to Gentleshaw proved to be another excellent bowls day, organised by Mike Lock. Good weather prevailed to make it memorable . Photos taken on the day have been published on our website.

Read Rod's review of the day on page three.

Lifting the lid on the Garrick

Our speaker, Adrian Jackson, gave us a short but intensive insight into the mysterious and complex world of theatre management and production which was illustrated with excellent visuals.

He said that he had been associated with the Garrick for approximately 6 years and although at first he was not impressed with its' architecture he had now come to like the building and its work which was obvious from the enthusiasm with which he gave his talk.

He explained the diverse, often mundane, activities required to run a modern theatre and the often cliff-hanging moments prior to performances, particularly "one night stands", and the difficulties increasingly encountered with members of the audience.

He also told us that the Garrick was now run by a charitable trust which and was consequently free from the political influences of Litchfield Council although it was still getting their financial support. It also means that the theatre can now apply for grants and other support previously not available to it. This freedom also enables him to use his entrepreneurial flair to expand and diversify the theatres' activities including a subtle increase in audience capacity.

I know that many members of our club have enjoyed memorable performances at the Garrick and that we can look forward to many more knowing that the theatre is in his capable hands. The lid was well and truly lifted! **Dennis Rose**

Stanley Bayliss

As you will all be aware Stan Bayliss died in hospital at the end of June. He was a Founder Member of the Club, his membership only lapsing after he needed constant care following the death of his wife Margaret.

A former neighbour, Stan was a qualified architect by profession, working mainly in the local authority sector, and latterly Director of Architecture and Technical Services for Wolverhampton Borough. He was an active member of the Masonic brotherhood, a very talented artist, and a competent piano player.

He and Margaret were regular worshippers at St Peter's Church Little Aston. Stan will be remembered as a quiet, unobtrusive Member, who supported most social events, but was never one to seek the limelight. His dry sense of humour endeared him to many, and his courteous manner was appreciated by all. In losing his soul mate Margaret, it was the beginning of the end, they were not blessed with a family, and had few relatives living in this country. We have lost one of life's characters, those who new him well will doubtless agree.

Brian Spencer

Woolsthorpe Manor and Belton House

On a beautiful sunny morning 12 Probus couples together with David Wallis, Rod Crowley, John Cheal and Neil Crabb climbed aboard the splendid Star coach just before 8:30 am at All Saints Church to set off on our journey to two National Trust properties. Near Grantham in Lincolnshire. But no ! Not yet ! Our leader, Brian, whilst counting heads discovered two were not where they should be sitting in their seats. Unfortunately Ron and Rhona had slightly miscalculated the time as per the Probus Newsletter. (An error on my part but corrected at the meeting and by email! ED). However, after a hasty telephone call they duly arrived to a very warm welcome with plenty of clapping of hands etc. and the odd comment thrown their way for good measure. It was however very pleasing to have their company in our midst.

It was not a particularly quick trip to Woolsthorpe Manor across country via Nottingham but extremely satisfying to be welcomed and shown to the coffee shop together with other facilities prior to seeing a short film of Sir Isaac Newton and then the tour round the Manor where he was born. It is furnished as a 17th Century farmhouse may have been.

Many of us came away a lot wiser than when we went in, hearing how the great man carried out ground-breaking scientific work. Seeing the famous apple tree that inspired his thoughts on gravity and motion, mathematics, optics etc He conducted experiments such as splitting white light into colours of the spectrum. His roles included a Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at Cambridge University, President of the Royal Society and Master of the Royal Mint.

It was less than half an hours drive to reach the wonderful Belton House and gardens where many of us enjoyed lunch in the Stables Restaurant followed by free time to tour Sir John Brownlow's large house with an army of guides to answer our many questions.

A little time was spent around the excellent gardens and orangery before partaking in a cuppa with scones, cream etc prior to leaving at 4:00 pm.

Many thanks to Brian Mallett for organising a splendid day out and for rubbing shoulders with Roy Willson the sunshine man. Not forgetting the generosity of David and Rita Rooke for supplying a large box of sweeties ! **David Wallis**

Inter Probus Golf Day

I am pleased to report that Sutton Park Probus Club has retained the Trophy. We played at Stonebridge Golf Club on 4th July. The Club was represented by Alf Dineen and Selby Betts. Unfortunately Ron Ryman and Brian Mallett were both unable to play due to injuries.

Alf won the individual title with 34 points beating Selby Betts by 2 points. The team prize was won by a large margin but this was not announced. I have been given the trophy.

Regrettably there was a very low turn out and if this continues there must be a doubt as to whether the contest can take place next year. **Selby Betts**

Theatre Visit - 18th October 2012

Sutton Town Hall is the venue for a musical comedy called 'This Time Next Year.'

Sutton Coldfield Musical Theatre Company are presenting this show which was first performed 12 years ago. It is set in a fictional holiday camp in the 1960's and follows the fortunes of three families. The music will be well known to everyone as it will be from the late 1950's and 1960's. We are always guaranteed a high standard of singing and dancing with SCMT so it should be an enjoyable night out.

The cost is £13.50 per person as a group booking (Normal price £15) **Brian Mallett**

'THIS IS ONE OF THE BEST I'VE READ IN A LONG TIME – SPEND WISELY-'

Imagine that you had won the following prize in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit £86,400.00 in your private account for your use. However,this prize has rules, just as any game has certain rules.

The first set of rules would be:

Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.

You may not simply transfer money into some other account.

You may only spend it.

Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another£86,400.00 for that day.

The second set of rules:

The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, Its over,the game is over! It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right? Not only for yourself, but for all people you love, right? Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every cent, and use it all, right?

ACTUALLY This GAME is REALITY!

Each of us is in possession of such a magical bank. We just can't seem to see it.

The MAGICAL BANK is TIME!

Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life, and when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is NOT credited to us.

What we haven't lived up that day is forever lost.

Yesterday is forever gone.

Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time....WITHOUT WARNING.

SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds?

Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in pounds

Think about that, and always think of this:

Enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be Happy, Love Deeply and enjoy life!

Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending.

Annual Bowls Day

Make a wish list for a good day's bowling and it will include:

Dry, warm weather, a quality green, challenging but friendly opposition, good refreshments, and a well organised order of play.

With so many rainy days this year, how lucky we were that Mike Lock had chosen Monday 9th July for our annual day at The Windmill, Gentleshaw. The forecast promised a mainly dry but cool day. In fact we enjoyed warmth and even sunshine. Gathering for morning coffee, our thoughts were with Norma and Don, who were unable to join us following their devastating kitchen fire and Margaret and Alf, whose efforts at the Probus Golf match despite his sciatica had left him flat on his back. He and Selby retained the cup for the third year !!

Mike had reworked the schedule, randomly selecting some to be non-scoring "dummy" players. Barry Parsonage took some ribbing as the first of these but I had to eat my words, when I found I was also to be one!!

After a large lunch and liquid refreshment, some regretted opting for the sponge pudding, as the play resumed. Tension mounted as the time came to present the Trophies and Prizes. Despite being outnumbered a lady topped the scoreboard, yet again; Hilary being the clear winner. Are we men too gallant or just not talented enough? Tim was the leading man, with Kath the second lady spot and Mike Lock being the second man.

Our thanks were due to David Rooke, for running the scoreboard so efficiently and, especially, to Mike for his outstanding organisation, which gave us all such an enjoyable day, meeting all the criteria on my wish list. **Rod Crowley**

Events and Activities for June to October 2012

Thursday 26th July
War of The Worlds
Andrew Lounds
Vote of Thanks : David Roy
Newsletter Report: Ron Ryman

Kitchen Rota: Ray Clark
Brian Mallett, John Purnell
Brian Senior, Mike Terry

Thursday 2nd August
Long Walk led by Don Cooper
Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Sunday 5th August
BBQ at the Fellows (12:00)
Theme Ascot
Coordinator; John Buckland

Wednesday 8th August
Coach to Highgrove Gardens
Depart Streetly 9.30 am
Coordinator; David Rooke

Thursday 16th August
Short Walk and Lunch
Walk Leader: Brian Spencer

Thursday 23rd August
The Black Country -
Tourist Destination
Keith Cheetham
Vote of Thanks: Brian Senior
Newsletter Report: Ian Scholes

Kitchen Rota: Neil Crabb
Roy Galloway, Brian Harbourne
Tim Daly, Ivor Wesley

Thursday 6th September
Long Walk by Mike Lock
Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Sun 9th-Wed 12th September
Autumn Break at York
Coordinator - John Cheal

Thursday 20th September
Short Walk and Pub Lunch
Walk Leader: Roy Willson

Tuesday 25th September
Ladies Bowls Day
Conservative Club
Organiser - Geoff Silvester

Thursday 27th September
Magnet Therapy
Alan Cooke
Vote of Thanks: Derek Smith
Newsletter Report: Mike Terry

Kitchen Rota: Jim Bailey
Keith Keeley, Roger Phillips
Bill Arnott, Roy Willson

Thursday 4th October
Long Walk led by Barry Gill
Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Thursday 11th October
Short Walk - TBA

Thursday 18th October
Theatre visit
See page 5 for details
Coordinator: Brian Mallett

Thursday2 5th October
Remembering Not To Forget
David Howe
Vote of Thanks : Ivor Wesley
Newsletter Report: Ernest Williams

Kitchen Rota: Selby Betts
John Buckland, Harry Medcalf
John Longmore

Future Events: See the Club Website for greater detail.

Monday 5th November
Long walk led by Brian Spencer
Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Saturday 10th November
Fine Dining
Organiser: Brian Mallett

Thursday 15th November
Short Walk - TBA

Thursday 22nd November
The Forensic Science of Handwriting
David Bexendale

Kitchen Rota: TBA

Friday 7th December
Christmas Lunch
Moor Hall
Coordinator: John Purnell

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.

Graham Jones should be notified - in plenty of time - if you are unable to carry out any of the Kitchen Rota duties

Short Walk - Thursday 16th August

Time: 10.00 for 10.30 start
Venue: The Anchor Inn Hartshill, nr Atherstone post code CV10 0RT
Distance: about 3 ½ miles. Very few stiles, some inclines.
Directions: Take the Tamworth Road from Sutton Coldfield, join the A5 and head towards Nuneaton for about 9 miles, crossing the M42 in the process. At the end of the Atherstone bypass, leave island on the B4111 SP Mancetter, Hartshill. Go past Dobbies Garden Centre, follow the road round to the right, then turn sharp left after going under railway bridge. Pub is on LHS in about ½ mile. Journey time 30 minutes.
Board with menu at meeting on 26th July. Please wear proper footwear, towpath can be muddy if wet. Two courses about £8.50
Organiser: Brian Spencer mobile on the day: 07711.127123
Sorry but cancellations after Monday 13th July will have to be paid for.

Long walk Thursday 2nd August

At present, there are two options. A decision will be made and circulated nearer the time, depending on the promised improvement in the weather.

If the ground is likely to have dried out sufficiently, the walk will be from Alstonefield , in the Peak District.

Otherwise, plan B will be to walk on the better-drained paths on Cannock Chase. Any queries, contact Rod.

For all walks please ensure you wear suitable footwear for the terrain.