

Sutton Park Probus Club (Founded in 1998)



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

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“A picture of Afghanistan” by Javed Hashemi

Javed Hashemi presented a fascinating and most informative insight into this turbulent country, which is about four times the size of the UK. It is situated on the old Silk Route, which links China to Turkey, and these trading links encouraged the influx of many different nationalities including Persian, Indian and Chinese. However the mountainous nature of northern Afghanistan has allowed the many different tribes to develop and maintain their separate identities.

The traditional serf system in which the tribal warlords own both the land and the people is still prevalent. There are two principal languages spoken – Dori in the north and Pashtu in the south. Nowadays about 75% of the 30m Moslem population are Sunni and 25% are Shi'a. Javed emphasized that the war torn country depicted on TV only reflects part of the south and that mainly in Helmand and Kandahar provinces: the north is peaceful and beautiful and in his experience is a safe country in which to travel. In recent decades the country has suffered massive deforestation of the native cedar trees which have been cut down and traded to Pakistan.



This source of income disappeared when the Russians invaded the country and stopped this trade. In 1995 the Taliban came in from Pakistan and filled the vacuum left by the Russian departure: whilst the Taliban initially enforced a ban on the opium trade that had grown up to provide an alternative source of income to timber logging, they changed their attitude later on in order to fund the war with the West.

As we all now know the Taliban enforce a strict form of Islam which treats women as chattels. Javed believes that there is a strategic need for the West to be in Afghanistan to protect future gas and oil pipelines which are likely to pass through this country. **Mick Lock**

Keeping Up with the Joneses



The omens were mixed: a lovely sunny morning, Tony with a lost cat and three cars in the wrong car park at Bridgnorth. Poor Graham, what had he done volunteering to lead the walk?

Soon we were climbing gently to the high ground with wonderful views over England's green and pleasant land and hardly a building to be seen; just a host of golden buttercups.

Janet, who was setting such a pace through one small settlement, had to

be reined in while the backmarkers caught up. It transpired that the little old church was really interesting (details from Gill) and the attractive properties were catching Rita's eye – much to David's alarm!

Lunch was to be by some pools but a fishing competition had beaten us to it. However, we were glad of some shade sitting in the grassy car park. Then down through the woods to walk back along the riverside path. Japanese Knotweed has taken over much of the river bank and could be seen trying to invade the adjacent crops.

The promise of a cold drink at the end kept us going while the tower of Bridgnorth Church kept coming and going like a mirage. Finally, a ride in the funicular up to the unspoilt, historic high town. Very many thanks to Janet and Graham for giving us such a great walk through a part of Shropshire perhaps as nice as Derbyshire (stir, stir). **Rod Crowley**



Es Fonti – Majorca

Sunrise still 30 minutes away, our group assembled in the departure lounge at Birmingham airport looking forward to the week ahead. The first surprise, and a great delight to all those who had pre-booked, was that Jim and Sylvia Bailey had managed to make a late booking and had joined the party bringing the total to twenty-two.

Our destination was Es Forti, near Cala D'or on the South-East side of Majorca. It takes its name from an old fort nearby. This area has a rugged coastline with many picturesque sandy coves, all safe for swimming. Some were accessible on foot and others by "Noddy train" and open-top buses. Several of us took to the sea in a "Starfish" catamaran to



visit other bays and view the coastline. David and Rita, with Jim and Sylvia, hired a car to venture further afield. Jim perhaps making a reconnaissance for future Probus holidays? We discovered that the East and North of Majorca have much to offer the discerning holiday maker.

The Rocamarina is a Thompson *Gold* Hotel rated by the group as 4 star and there was no one who would disagree with this. Rooms were a good size and adequately furnished. It had a large swimming pool with a deep end suitable for diving. A second good size pool was across the road next to tennis courts and an *open-all-day* bar and restaurant where many of us spent a number of long evenings. Menus were quite extensive; the speciality being the gorgeous apple crumble and bread and butter pudding which was on offer every evening and which was consumed by some *every evening*. A variety of entertainment was put on by the hotel but the usual Probus cordiality prevailed. The enjoyment of each other's company and fellowship, and our own banter and joviality, (perhaps helped by the ample measures of gin, brandy, etc.) surpassed any entertainment the hotel could muster.

Thursday evening a coach took us all to the Gran Casino in Palma to see the show "*Come Fly with Me*", a Frank Sinatra spectacular which had artists flying above the 'champagne' drinking audience to some of "Blue eyes'" most popular songs. A truly wondrous experience of swing music mixed with world class acrobatics, juggling and dancing. It was a great night out!

On the Friday evening we all accepted the invitation of the President and Joan Betts to join them in their room for pre-dinner drinks and, as always, we were not too quiet about it. The guy opposite came to the door with just a towel around his waist to ask us to be a little less noisy but went on to say he was only joking. The ladies seemed unsure why he had not been invited to join us! The President, on behalf of us all, thanked Brian and Margaret Mallet for their time and effort in arranging our summer break.

A cracking time was had by all !! **Fred Ditchfield**



Being yourself.. To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, night and day, to make you somebody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight; and never stop fighting. ~E. E. Cummings, 1955

For a friend.. In everyone's life, at some time, our inner fire goes out. It is then burst into flame by an encounter with another human being. We should all be thankful for those people who rekindle the inner spirit. ~Albert Schweitzer

Smiling.. Smiling is infectious, You can catch it like the flu. Someone smiled at me today, And I started smiling too. ~ author unknown

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
Thur 24th Jun	Work of a Coroner	Reg Browning	Brian Harbourne	Ian Scholes
Wed 30th Jun	Inter-Probus Golf - Stonebridge Golf Club	Brian Mallett		
Thur 1st July	President's Annual Dinner. Packington Farm	John Cheal	7.30 pm for 8.00 pm start	
Thurs 8th July	Pub Amble — Sutton Park (£5.25)	Derek Smith	10.30 Start	
Mon 12th July	Long Walk — Clent	Dennis Rose	Meet at Roy's 09.30 am	
Thur 15th July	Crich Tramway Village (£20)	John Cheal	Meet at Foley Rd East 09.15 am	
Thu 22nd July	Life as Lord Mayor of Birmingham	Jim Worwood	John Buckland	Brian Nicholas
Mon 26 July	Long Walk - Cotswolds	Brian Spencer		
Sun 8th Aug	'The Garden Party' BBQ (£23)	John Buckland	At John & Marlene Fellows	
Thur 19th Aug	Pub Amble - TBA	Roy Willson	10.30 Start	
Thur 26 Aug	The Miners' Strike and Arthur Scargill	Mike Harrison	John Cheal	Roy Galloway

Kitchen Rota Thur 24th June

John Longmore

Ian Scholes

Mike Terry

Earnest Williams

Roy Wilson

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

Pub Amble

Date: Thurs 8th July.

Venue: Park House Restaurant.

Start time: 10.30 am

Amble: approx 3.5 miles over gentle countryside.

Lunch: 12.30

Organiser: Derek Smith.

Kitchen Rota Thur 24th June

Tim Daly

Ray Clark

Brian Harbourne

Roy Galloway

Ivor Wesley

Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary

Pub Ambles

Please only come along to the lunch venues if you have booked a meal in advance. Folk turning up without pre-ordering, causes no end of hassle on the day, and results in long delays of serving of food for everyone. If you have ordered food and do not attend, you can expect to have to pay for it, once an order has been placed.

A DAY AT THE WINDMILL

Thursday 16th June was a day to remember,(or to forget for those who lost) .

The annual visit to Gentleshaw on the top of Cannock Chase for the sporting members of the club and their wives provided an opportunity to show many talents previously hidden from view. The English summer finally arrived with a glorious sunny day providing the backdrop for what turned out to be an intense competition and extreme demonstration of Crown Green bowling such as rarely seen by most mortals.

30 competitors converged on the Windmill Hostelry for coffee at 10.30am followed by a mass visit to the conveniences before commencing the day's activi-



ties on the bowling green. Competitors were divided into teams of four and games commenced. No handicaps were permitted, so newcomers re-



ceived the same treatment as experienced bowlers.

Two games were played by everyone in the morning, and two in the afternoon. Lunch was taken at 1pm. The food was excellent, but so much appeared on the plates that we realised that bowls handicaps were not needed as the food provided a great leveller and most would have gladly nodded off instead of playing two more matches each.

It soon became clear that the day was to end with two worthy winners. Peter Gray in his usual competitive manner won for the men, wearing his usual white cap, and Val Nightingale

was top lady, wearing her Majorcan style hat.



She actually scored most points on the day. Congratulations to both of you.. Runners up were Tim Daly and Kath Parsonage.

Our President Selby Betts and his wife Joan watched all the days competitions and before presenting the prizes to the winners, he and Joan played a short exhibition match,(never mind Selby these greens are larger than you are used to.). During the day we received a visit from the local high sheriff, Ivor Wesley and his wife Maureen and also from John Cheal sporting his new Jag.

Thanks must go to (Mathematical) Mike Lock for his impeccable organisation in running the competition and also to David

Rooke for his compilations of the various scores. Some assistance was provided by Selby Betts and our thanks must also go to the non attending Roy Willson for lending us the weather.

In all an excellent day out enjoyed by all. Let's do it again next year. **John Buckland.**



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.