Pub Amble - Middleton Village

A bright, sunny, morning greeted the 20 walkers who met at the Green Man in Middleton village. The pub is well over 300 years old and steeped in history. Originally was a typically small village pub but, over the past 30 years, has grown in size becoming a well-known eating house.

The walk began down Vicarage Hill soon to pass by Middleton Equestrian Centre which, over the years, has had royal connections (horses are\were schooled there for the royal family).. We then turned right into Middleton Lane and walked alongside Ash End Farm.. Several coaches had deposited many children there, and judging by the noise, all were having a great time !! The donkey in the field came over to greet us (and maybe get a little respite !!)..

We progressed along the lane arriving at Green Lane where some of the walkers suggested we stop for coffee - I'm sure Marlene would have made us very welcome !! But we decided to carry on and turned up a track leading to Hill Farm. Upon reaching the farm we crossed the road and entered a meadow —pausing for the customary photo call..

Continuing through Middleton Woods we came across the local Clay Pigeon Club shooting ground where we could see a variety of mock hides. Judging by the amount of spent cartridges in a nearby skip it appeared to be a very popular activity !! The path eventually lead us back the start point where we were joined by six non walkers for lunch.

Our thanks must go to Mary and Roy for a delightful walk and for bringing the good weather with them (yet again !!) **John Fellows**

Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded in 1998)

President: Fred Nightingale **Issue 152 June 2011**

Waddeson Manor

The trip to Waddeson Manor started in relaxed mood thanks to Brian Senior's arranging for car parking and coach departure from Aston Wood Golf Club - a huge relief to everyone who expressed their thanks. Having taken an unusual route to the M42 we arrived at Waddesdon in time to collect tickets for our tour of the ground floor of the house.

The guides were informative and verbally introduced us to past and present members of the Rothschild family.

The house 1874-89 was built in the style of an 18th century French Chateau by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild to display his outstanding collection of art treasures and for entertaining on a lavish scale.

Many of the interior walls are covered in oak panels taken from French chateaux stripped bare during the French Civil War

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. Interestingly, the house is built on a steel framework which amongst other things, enables them to hang the many heavy decorative chandeliers from the ceilings

The Rothschilds made their fortune by helping Venetian Emperors and Dignitaries to obtain their money to fight various battles giving them the opportunity to trade successfully with other parts of the world. For their services the family were rewarded first by adding 'Von' to the Rothschilds name and later 'Baron'

A visit to the wine cellars was taken after lunch when we were told how the family first became famous for the 'Mouton' name followed by them purchasing the vineyards of La Fite.

Unfortunately time did not allow for us to enjoy the gardens but most Probus visitors felt they would return.

Our thanks must go to John Cheal and David Rooke for their time and efforts in arranging such an enjoyable day. **Ron Ryman**

The Black Country Living Museum

David Baker from the Black Country Living Museum gave u a well illustrated and interesting talk. He outlined its birth in 1975 from a derelict former coal mining area into an Heritage Park of some 26 acres in the shadow of Dudley Castle. Historic buildings from the near Black Country had been faithfully restored and relocated.

He showed many slides of major items like the Newcomen Steam Engine building to the village of many shops, a Pub, Chapel, (used for weddings and some services), and St James School from Dudley. The local canal had been repaired and narrow boats were used especially for school trips.

Among the many attractions were the entrance hall which had been the Rolfe Street swimming baths, the Patrick Car collection, the Tram shop where trams and buses are now running , and a pair of semi-detached cast iron prefabs built in 1912. There were also some of the old industrial workshops like the chain makers.

David answered questions form the floor and Richard Humphrey, on behalf of members, gave the vote of thanks. I think that we were all of the opinion that a visit to the museum was a possible for the near future. **David Roy**

Visit to the County Cricket Ground at Edgbaston

Photo taken at Probus visit to Edgbaston on Sunday 22 May. Shows a small group of members who attended a most exciting high scoring match between Warwickshire and Durham. They also seem to be enjoying a welcome stand up between innings. The visit was well organised by David Rooke

My thanks to John Booth for the photo.

'As of tomorrow, employees will only be able to access the building using individual security cards. Pictures will be taken next Wednesday, and employees will receive their cards in two weeks.' (This was the winning quote from Fred Dales, Microsoft Corp in Redmond , WA)

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.

Spring Break in Sorrento

"We must be insane !"someone in our party of 23 was overheard to say as we formed up at East Midlands Airport at 4.25 am for the 6 am flight to Naples.

Our hotel, the Grand Hotel Nastra Azzurro was set in lovely countryside half way up a mountainside with view across the bay of Naples. We were treated to a commercial tour of Sorrento by our First Choice host, (dubbed Ali Baba by David Roy), in which we were taken to a furniture shop (30% off), some pizzerias (10% off), a cameo and coral maker (30% off), and some ice cream free to the ladies but 2.50 euros to Probus members !

The one feature we all liked was the All Inclusive arrangement whereby we spent nothing on drink the whole week. It fortified us for the rigours of the tours the following day !

One of the most popular was Herculaneum. Though less well-known and a smaller city than Pompeii, Herculaneum is one of Italy's best preserved sites, a Roman fishing and holiday resort which was drowned in a 16 metre thick sea of mud when Mount Vesuvius erupted in AD 79.

Other visits made by members and partners were to Pompeii, Positano, Amalfi and Ravello. The highlight for some was the island of Capri and for others the island of Ischia and particularly the Garden of Eden at La Mortella. This was created by Sir William Walton, the British composer, and his wife, with more than 1000 rare and exotic plants all inspired by the Moorish Garden of Granada's Alhambra in Spain.

The hotel facilities included an open-air jacuzzi, a swimming pool where lunch was served and 10 acres of tranquil woodland with gazebos and sleep-inducing loungers. The food was excellent as was the evening entertainment which included dancing (thanks to Jim and Sylvia).

Discretion suggests we draw a veil over someone locking themselves in the loo, others studying Roman erotica in a Naples museum, and someone else getting stuck in the lift.

However, all too soon it was the last night and the words of sincere thanks by Vice -President Brian Spencer to Brian Mallet underlined another first class Probus visit.

Derek Smith

Long walk 2nd June, Bewdley

Dennis led us on a fine walk, with a few surprises along the way. Very cleverly we gained height with little effort and were rewarded with wide views to distant hills. Only when returning down a long, fairly steep lane, did we realise just how much we had climbed.

On their recci Dennis and Alfred had been seen off by an old lady and detoured from the marked rights of way. She was about again but, since we outnumbered her nine to one, we were just brave enough to exercise our rights, without being harangued.

Lunch break was enlivened by watching Graham try to find the scissors amongst the myriad of gadgets on his giant sized Swiss Army knife – if you ever get a Boy Scout stuck in a horse's hoof, you'll know who to send for!

Descending towards Trimpley reservoir, we found the tinder-dry, needled floor of the woods on fire. Geoff and Tony were despatched to try to stamp it out and to report it to some nearby Severn Trent workmen. Sheila was so worried about Geoff, that when we caught up with the main party, there she was in full flight on a tree swing.

Back to Bewdley, crossing the Elan Valley Pipeline and swapping our walking anoraks for train spotters' ones, to watch the Severn Valley steam train chug by. In the town some enjoyed a well-deserved cuppa whilst others tasted the local ice-cream.

Many thanks to Dennis; another good day's walk in happy company.

Rod Crowley

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2011

Tues 23rd Aug

A rare visit to Highgrove. An all day trip, travelling by coach.
This is a restricted numbers visit - those going should now know..

30th Sept - 2nd Oct

Autumn Break - Alveston Hall

Sat 12th Nov

Fine Dining evening

Short Walk

Date: Thursday 21st July
Times: Walk 10.30 am and Lunch at 1.00 pm
Venue: The Mermaid Pub - Wightwick (WV6 8BN)
Travel time: 45—60 minutes.
Cost: £10 for three courses.
Location : 3 Miles west of Wolverhampton on Bridgenorth Road (A454)

Directions: Through Walsall (A454) towards Wolverhampton. Cross M6 and continue to the W'ton Ring Road. Turn for Bridgenorth (A454). (Take care through Chapel Ash - stay on A454 !) About 2 miles, go through Crompton and on to a set of traffic lights. The Mermaid PH is on the opposite side of the road. For those who would like an alternative, Wightwick Manor (NT) is about 500 yards further along the road..

Walk: This is an easy - very flat - walk of about 4 miles through country lanes, canal tow paths, fields and woodland. There are no stiles.

Organiser: Tony Ferneyhough

Please note : All walkers should wear sensible\suitable footwear.
Not booking and just turning up may cause embarrassment !!

Kitchen Rota Thurs 28th July

Jim Bailey
John Cheal
Ray Clark
Roy Galloway
David Wallis

Graham Jones -Venue Secretary

Kitchen Rota Thurs 23rd June

Don Cooper
Tim Daly
David Roy
Brian Senior
Barry Gill

Graham Jones -Venue Secretary

Date	Event	Speaker\ Coordinator	Vote Of Thanks	Newsletter Report
Thur 23rd June	**Samuel Johnson A man of many words**	**Joanne Wilson**	**Ron Ryman**	**Harry Medcalf**
Thur 7th July	Long Walk Cleeve Prior	**Rod Crowley**	Depart from Roy's by 9.30 am	
Fri 8th July	President's Supper (£25)	**David Rooke John Cheal**	Terrace Restaurant 7.00 for 7.30 pm	
Thur 21st July	Short walk and Pub Lunch Wightwick	**Tony Ferneyhough**	Walk starts at 1030 am	
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 Church Stretton	**Graham Jones**	Depart from Roy's by 9.30.am	
Wed 10th Aug	The Staffordshire Hoard	**David Rooke**	See page 6 for details	
Thur 18th Aug	Short walk and Pub Lunch	**Roy Willson**	Walk starts at 10.30 am	
Tues 23rd Aug	Visit to Highgrove	**David Rooke**	Depart by coach.. More details closer to the date.	
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	**Roy Willson**	Walk Starts at 10.30 am	
Thur 22nd Sept	Baron Ash and Packwood House	**Mike Miles**	**Ian Scholes**	**Bryan Nicholas**
Fri 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.	