

“To the stocks and whipping post”

A very quiet whisper was heard when our speaker declared that Sutton Coldfield was not ‘royal’ and that she did not support any movement to re-establish this title. Your scribe felt that further investigation was required.

In 1528 King Henry V111 granted a charter to the Town to be called The Royal Town of Sutton Coldfield . The town continued as an unreformed corporation until 1885 when it was replaced by a Municipal Borough. Unfortunately this named borough never applied for the title ‘Royal’ and thus our speaker was so accurate. If you have any great grandparents who held office back in 1885 , blame them.

Our speaker Elizabeth Allison gave us an interesting guide through the buildings and professions of the High Street where the first building was in 1757 and as recently as 1911 there was only one main street.

It was an interesting talk that brought back memories to many members
The stocks and whipping post can be examined in the library. **Brian Mallett**



At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the phrase 'minding your 'P's and Q's'.

General Notes:

I have been advised by Roy Galloway that there are a couple changes to the Handbook. Speakers for May and June this year have been re-arranged with February and March next year. This was due to unforeseen circumstances at the time of publication..

Members are reminded that on the Short Walks, finite numbers are required by the Pub in plenty of time. Please keep the walk organiser informed if there is any change in circumstances. Thank you.

Editor's Notes

Articles\photos received will only be published for the current month if they reach me **no later than the Saturday before** publication at the monthly General Meeting. All other photos\articles will be published on the Club Website. 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.

Articles should 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 (**Harry Medcalf**) may submit extracts of articles and photos to the local press.. Harry's report will also appear on the Website on the Publicity Page.

Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: Brian Spencer

No.164

June 2012

President's Supper at The Terrace



This was the first major event for our new President in 2012. Brian is pictured here with Dorothy - the first lady. As in keeping with the Diamond Jubilee celebrations everyone entered into the ‘spirit’ of the occasion The Terrace is an excellent venue where we were well looked after. Please read Alf's article for an in-depth view of the evening.

The President's Mid-Summer Supper

On a very warm June evening we arrived with our ladies at the Terrace Restaurant all suitably dressed in national colours. It being Jubilee weekend. We were warmly welcomed by our president Brian and the first lady, Dorothy. After pre-supper drinks we proceeded to the dining room for a most enjoyable meal,



President Brian welcomed and introduced our guests for the evening namely Allen Petty, Peter Weston, Mike Belman and their good ladies. Grace was said by Mike Lock and the Loyal Toast was delivered by Jim Bailey finishing with the National Anthem. Brian then presented a prize to Barry and Kathleen Parsonage after being adjudged the most suitably attired couple in national colours. Entertainment was provided by Robin Horton in the form of a sing-along. Some of the members and their ladies also enjoyed dancing to Robin's music. Most joined in a resounding, and energetic, version of New York New York !

The evening closed with President Brian thanking all who had made the evening such a huge success.

On behalf of all of us who attended we offer our sincere thanks to Brian and Dorothy for inviting us to a most enjoyable evening and we wish you and Dorothy a very happy and successful year. **Alf Dineen**

John Buckland takes us on holiday in Ibiza

As soon as we arrived at the Hotel Catalonia Ses Estaques in Santa Eulalia, Ibiza we knew that this holiday had all the ingredients for an excellent break. Not only was the hotel situated on the beach with lovely views of the sea and the adjacent marina, but it was also in walking distance of shops and town.

On arrival in the well appointed rooms we were greeted by a note from our chambermaid which read, and I quote, "I am Maria your chambermaid. I will be at your entire disposal for whatever you may require while you are here with us. I wish you a pleasant stay" (even Pat does not say that to me?)

Ten members with their wives attended this break but we were sad to hear that David and Jenny could not join us at the last minute owing to David's setback, and we all wished him a speedy recovery.

Various trips were undertaken by members during the week and including a trip by coach around the Island which included, I am informed, spectacular caves with musical accompaniment. One member complained that he could not appreciate the music as he was too far away down the cave to hear it properly, but when he asked for the performance to be repeated he was told to come back another day.

Friends, Probosians, Countrymen. Lend me you ears !

Despite the rain and late arrival of our coach, 37 of us set off in very good spirit on our visit to the revamped Shakespeare Theatre ([RSC and Swan](#))

On arrival we were divided into two groups, each with a guide and I think the group I was in was fortunate in having someone called David to show us round who was deeply passionate and knowledgeable about the building, its history and the people who worked and performed there. From the moment he introduced himself it started to be a trip down memory lane for me.

He first went to the Theatre as a youth to see Paul Robeson in Macbeth and couldn't hear only seat he could afford was right at the back. I also saw that superb production with Norma on



our second date, fortunately much nearer the stage and Robeson's deep voice still rings in my ears. To get a better seat David washed cars until he had enough money to see a young Judi Dench in a production and fell instantly in love with her. I resisted at that point challenging him to a duel for her favours because I had been smitten by her charms since recording a series with her called 'Hilda Lessways' at Gosta Green studio when she was little more than a teenager

For the next hour we were treated to a fascinating commentary whilst being taken all over the theatre, having the workings of a high tech control room explained whilst through a large window we watched actors rehearsing that evening's performance on the stage just below us. We had explained how the new theatre has been designed to make the audience have a closer relationship to the cast as it was in Shakespeare's day. We saw part of the old stage that had been relayed at the entrance to the auditorium so that, explained David, everyone entering can claim they have trodden on the same boards as.....and he rattled off a list of famous names but I was a little hurt because he didn't mention me!! In 1965 I had spent a month on that stage recording Henry VI, Edward IV and Richard III with Peggy Ashcroft, Janet Suzman, David Warner, Ian Holme, Donald Sinden and Eric Porter for a BBC series that went out on Sunday evenings as 'The Wars of the Roses.'

The tour was over far too quickly. David was gone in a flash and we were left to wander over the bridge to the Riverside Restaurant where we had a very good lunch.

Many thanks Jim for organising an excellent day out. **Don Cooper.**

Long Walk Saltisford Basin

Despite a dire weather forecast of heavy rain and storms, seven Probus stalwarts, Ron, Alf, our latest recruit Mike, Geoff, Sheila, Janet and myself set off from Saltisford Canal Basin, near Warwick, on the June Long Walk.

Sheila and Janet initially led the walk, setting off like Olympic torch bearers progressing up past the picturesque twenty one Hatton Locks on the Grand Union Canal. Geoff, recently retired experienced narrowboat captain informed the party that it can take up to four hours to negotiate all the locks in busy periods. An unusual feature of the locks is that they can, if need be to speed things up, take two boats alongside one another when travelling through the locks.

After reaching the Waterman pub a brief refreshment break was taken before crossing the A4177 and heading off towards Beausale. A pleasant walk through the beautiful Warwickshire farmland before returning to the canal and the final stretch back to Saltisford Basin. Just as we reached our cars the heavens opened and the heavy rains forecast began to fall.

All members quickly retired to the Anchor Inn in nearby Leek Wootton for a lovely meal and the inevitable bowl of chips !! **Graham Jones**



Short Walk at Alrewas .

A depleted group of amblers, eight in total, (is this a quorum?), met at the George and Dragon pub in Alrewas on what was the best morning, weather-wise, for some weeks. Other regular walkers were dispersed mainly in foreign parts or laid low with medical problems. However, the "crème de la crème," as someone

described us, enjoyed a gentle three and a half mile stroll and the inevitable Probus chat along surprisingly dry tow-paths and across some slightly hilly fields around the lovely Staffordshire countryside with only a couple of styles to negotiate. In the group picture you can see the lovely old church at Wychnor in the background. There was a hive of activity around the canal as locks were being negotiated.



Numbers improved a little when we arrived back at the George and Dragon as seven other non-walkers joined us for a substantial, tasty and inexpensive lunch (£6 pp. 2 courses plus coffee/tea). Derek and Tony undertook the recce and lunch arrangements and were suitably thanked for their efforts by yours truly. **Fred Nightingale**



Group poses for photo call before the evening meal.

Some members chose to use the local ferries which were very frequent and travelled to Ibiza town or to a Hippy Market. Others travelled on a local Noddy train which took us out in to the country, with a humorous commentary from the driver who was pointing out various items of interest including an Australian Pine tree ? A free drink was provided during the trip so we believed everything that he told us!

As our holiday organiser managed to leave it until the middle of the week to ask me to write this report , I decided to send around a questionnaire, in order to assess members thoughts on the break. A short synopsis of the comments are as follows. "Great Hotel, Good company, Good location. Wall to wall sunshine, An opportunity to stand on the balcony in the morning, followed by Champagne for breakfast.

Good evening entertainment. Staff very helpful and pleasant. Good food well up to Gold Standard. Weather perfect, One member commented that he had a wellie good time paddling in the pool, This does not reflect on the fact that he wore his Bush hat everywhere ? One member commented that what's the point of travelling to Antigua when you can experience similar conditions only two hours flying away.

A group photograph was organised but our photographer was not sure which location to position us in as the beach did have a number of topless ladies in attendance. Needles to say we did manage to face the correct way in the end. On Thursday we all attended a meal set in a Michelin starred restaurant , where Selby (one of our elder statesmen) thanked Brian for all his a hard work in organising once again a very successful break.

Thank you all for being such great company !! **John Buckland.**

Events and Activities for June to October 2012

Thursday 28th June
Lifting the Lid on the Garrick Theatre
Adrian Jackson

Vote of Thanks: Terry Booth
Newsletter Report: Dennis Rose

Kitchen Rota: Alf Dineen
Barry Gill, Mike Gospel
Ian Scholes, David Wallis

Monday 2nd July
Long Walk led by Dennis Rose
 Direct or met at Roy's to car share.

Wednesday 4th July
Inter-Club Probus Golf day
 Liaison: Brian Mallett

Monday 9th July
Gentleshaw Bowls Open Day
Cost; £ 13 - £18
 Coordinator: Mike Lock

Thursday 12th July
Coach trip to Belton House and
Woolsthorpe Manor
Cost £15 + entrance fees for
non NT members
 Depart Streetly 9.30 am
 Coordinator: Brian Mallett

Thursday 19th July
Short Walk and Pub Lunch
 Walk Leader: Derek Smith

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
 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 Harbourn
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

Future Events: See the Club Website for greater detail.

Thursday 27th September
Magnet Therapy
Alan Cooke
Vote of Thanks: David Roy
Newsletter Report: Ron Ryman

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
 Coordinator: Brian Mallett

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 19th July

Start: 10.15 for 10.30am.. Lunch: 12.15
 Venue: Parson and Clerk Toby Carvery
 Directions: Situated on the Chester Road, Sutton Coldfield,
 near the Queslett Road Island.
 Walk: About 3 miles in Sutton Park.
 Meal Cost: £5.95 per person for a Carvery.

Organiser: Derek Smith

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

Long Walk, Monday 2nd July

This walk is approx. 6.5 miles in the Hanbury Hall area with 2 minor hills and several stiles most of which are modern and some are not.

We meet at The Navigation Inn (B60 4LB) on Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, South of Bromsgrove, starting at 10-30, leaving Roys' at 9-30 for car sharing.

Two possible routes,

M5 to junction 5, sharp left onto A38 signed "Webb's of Wychbold" which you pass, bear right at the next island, turn right at traffic lights 250 yds. at "Hanbury Turn" onto B4091. Approx. 1 mile Navigation Inn on left, please park away from pub.

Alternatively, take M42 to Junction 1 follow A38 South to "Hanbury Turn" and turn left at lights.

Please join me in praying for the rain to stop! **Dennis Rose**