



## Sutton Park Probus Club ( Founded in 1998 )

**President: Fred Nightingale**

**Issue 151 May 2011**

### Annual General Meeting

A record 91% of Members attended the AGM, attracted no doubt by the prospect of some liquid refreshment to celebrate Paul's birthday. However, before the fun started the President presented a bouquet of flowers to our special guest, Mrs Linda Massey, known affectionately as "Linda Sandwich" and expressed the Club's sincere thanks to her for providing Members with such an excellent buffet lunch at our monthly meetings for the last 10 years or so.

AGM's are never routine at this Club, and this year was no exception with two proposals from the incoming President to amend the Constitution. These were debated and, in one case amended, before receiving almost unanimous support from Members. In essence they concerned what to do with the Club's assets in the unlikely event that it closed down, and to allow existing Officers to serve up to a total of 5 years should there be a problem in persuading other Members to take office.

Retiring President, Selby Betts, thanked all those who had worked so hard during his year to keep the show on the road, particularly to Barry Gill, Dennis Rose & David Rooke. He led the Club with a minute's silence to honour the deaths of Paul Sadler, Bernard White & Robert Barrett, and then touched on the numerous highlights of the year.

Treasurer, Dennis, presented the accounts in a brisk delivery, and later when he asked for the budget to be approved, which included an unchanged subscription fee, the Members showered him with cheques – something I fancy never happened to a certain George Brown of ill repute!

The newly elected President Fred Nightingale, freshly adorned with the Club's insignia, then expressed his hopes for the year ahead. Members are encouraged to attract new Members and to participate in the running of the Club, in particular to contribute their ideas to the social committee for consideration. Fred wishes to see more Inter-Club activities. He also asked Members for their support and understanding in the year ahead should his hearing difficulties lead to any communication problems: he intends to make more use of the roving microphone during meetings. All Members will I am sure give Fred their full support and ensure that this excellent Club continues to thrive and fulfil the expectations of its Members.

**Mike Lock**

### 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.

## Bagworth Heath Wood & Thornton Reservoir 9th May

Minus some of our regular walkers nine of us, three ladies, six men and one canine spent the most delightful few hours rambling around some of Leicestershire's finest countryside on a bright, dry and breezy day perfect for walking.

The area, formerly well known for coal mining, has been extensively restored to nature with several pools and woodlands all forming part of the National Forest.



At the start we were expecting an attack as we negotiated "Tigers Wood" which turned out to be a small arboretum planted to the memory of a now defunct regiment of the British Army. We progressed through a plantation and fields to the village of Bagworth where we

saw a small building built to house the parish Funeral Bier and which was funded by a local resident in memory of his late wife.

After traversing some of the areas' rolling country yielding fine open views we arrived at Thornton Reservoir, somewhat depleted in water, but still alive with wildlife and fishermen where, with a short stop for lunch, we strolled on level ground in



preparation for more ups and downs which kept us on our toes. Towards the end of our tour, having passed cautiously over a railway line still in use, we skirted a brickworks containing a huge stockpile of bricks but which was well hidden by trees and hedges.

Our thanks to Sheila and Geoff for finding such a pleasant and interesting walk with our fellow Probus companions.

**Dennis Rose**

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

## Pub Amble in Staffordshire

Around thirty walkers gathered in the car park of the Horse and Jockey just outside Lichfield on 19th May in perfect conditions for walking, the usual Roy Willson Weather I believe!. Quite a lot of the walkers cast off their wet weather gear as there



seemed little chance of any rain, Roy our leader lead the way adorned in his yellow jacket, Tour De France style, maybe we should have been on bikes, now there's a thought ! . With Mary also wearing the fashionable yellow jacket at the rear to protect us from any aggressive Staffordshire drivers, please to say only pleasant ones today, we ambled away down the lanes and farm tracks enjoying the company and the Staffordshire country side , a bonus today there was no stiles on the chosen route, we are very fortunate to

have so many pleasant walks in our local vicinity to appreciate.

At one point we crossed the main road and headed for the army barracks at Whittington, where you could see some army personnel participating in some sort of exercise,( has Roy got a surprise for us, could we be joining in) ,what a relief, he headed for a road along side the barracks which we wondered down on our way back to the Horse and Jockey, some said it was a 3 mile walk, some said it felt like 4 miles , but we will never know as Tonys' pedometer had broken !! ( **The satellites must have gone behind a cloud !!**)

On arriving at back at the Horse and Jockey after a very pleasant amble, we were joined by other non walking members for lunch, the food today was excellent, well cooked plenty for all and good value for money, the service was friendly and could not be faulted, at least not by our table, well worth another visit. our lunch ended with our President Fred Nightingale giving a vote of thanks to Roy and Mary for today's walk. We all departed for our various destinations to enjoy the rest of the day. **Mike Terry**

A doctor made it his regular habit to stop off at a bar for a hazelnut daiquiri on his way home. The bartender knew of his habit, and would always have the drink waiting at precisely 5:03 p.m. One afternoon, as the end of the work day approached, the bartender was dismayed to find that he was out of hazelnut extract. Thinking quickly, he threw together a daiquiri made with hickory nuts and set it on the bar. The doctor came in at his regular time, took one sip of the drink and exclaimed, "This isn't a hazelnut daiquiri!" "No, I'm sorry", replied the bartender, "it's a hickory daiquiri, doc."

## Directions to THE OLDE WINDMILL PUB in Gentleshaw

**1 — Route from Sutton:** **A5127** to Lichfield. **A51** for 4 miles to Longdon crossroads Turn left, follow signs for Gentleshaw for 2.5 miles. Starts as Borough Lane then, Dark Lane, Thorley's Hill, Malt House Road and School Lane. (Lanes are very narrow –take care !!!!) At Gentleshaw follow road for 200 yards then turn left into Windmill Lane. Olde Windmill Pub on left

**2 – Route from Streetly:** **A452** to Shire Oaks crossroads. Turn right onto **A461** for half mile to bottom of hill. Left into Barracks Lane for 1.75 miles over 3 roundabouts & M6 toll to 4th roundabout. Turn right up Hospital Road for about 1 mile, bear left and immediately right at mini roundabout into Chase Road (300 yards to Burntwood Centre). Cross mini roundabout, continue along Rugeley Road for 1.5 miles. At crossroads turn left into Common Side for 1.25 miles. Turn right at Gentleshaw into Windmill Lane. Olde Windmill Pub is on the left.

**Please use car park opposite the pub.**

A Stockbroker urged me to buy a stock that would triple it's value every year. I told him - " At my age I don't even buy green bananas !" (Quote by Claude Pepper)

## Club Web Site

Many photos are taken every month at the various club activities.. It is impossible to print them all in the Newsletter.. There are two alternatives to view these pictures.. The first is the Club's ever-expanding photo albums which are held by Harry Medcalf (Publicity Officer).. The other alternative is to view them on our club web-site. The address of this is ... <http://suttonparkprobus.wordpress.com/> (OR... Google for 'Sutton Park Probus Club')..

If you wish to have your own copies it is possible to copy\download them directly from the web site. Using the mouse.... Right click on desired picture and from the small on-screen menu select 'save target as' and save them into the desired folder.

As a reminder, it is also possible to view and download copies of current and previous issues of the Newsletter. I am fully appreciative of members who do print out their own copy each month.. The current month's Newsletter is 'published' on the website the Wednesday before the General Meeting. To help reduce time and costs members can contact the editor and 'volunteer' to carry out this small task on their own computer. A useful feature of having the Newsletter early is when joint decisions have to be made for future events\activities.

The Newsletter can be 'viewed' anywhere in the world. Even when on holiday (or when unwell) it is possible to keep in touch !!



(Above) Fred Nightingale gives his first speech as President.



(Right) Linda was presented with a superb bouquet of flowers as a small token of our gratitude for all her hard work.



Selby Betts handing over the Presidency to Fred Nightingale.

## Inter Club Probus Golf 2011

The annual golf competition will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> June at Wishaw Golf Club. We retained the trophy last year after winning it in 2009. We are looking for help in holding on to the trophy, so dust out those clubs and come and enjoy playing with fellow Probus members. The cost is £35 which includes a light breakfast as well as the golf followed by a meal. The start time is 8.30 at Wishaw. **Brian Mallett**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - 2011

### Mon 20th June

Mike Lock is organising our annual crown green bowls day at Gentleshaw.

### Fri July 8th

President's Supper at the Terrace Restaurant.

### 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..

Check with David Rooke if you are unsure of selection.

### 30th Sept - 2nd Oct

Autumn Break - Alveston Hall

### Sat 12th Nov

Fine Dining evening

## Short Walk

Date: Thursday 9th June

Times: Walk 10.30 am and Lunch at 12.30

Venue: The Green Man, Middleton. B78 2AN      Cost: £10 for two courses.

Location: The Green Man is easy to find in the village of Middleton. About 3 miles east of Sutton.

Walk: This is an easy walk of about 3 miles through country lanes, fields and woodland. There are two 2 stiles.

Organiser: Roy Willson.

**Please note** : All walkers should wear sensible/suitable footwear.

Everyone must notify Roy beforehand..

Not booking and just turning up may cause embarrassment !!

### Kitchen Rota Thurs 23rd June

**Don Cooper**

**Tim Daly**

**David Roy**

**Brian Senior**

**Barry Gill**

**Graham Jones -Venue Secretary**



### Kitchen Rota Thurs 26th May

**Terry Booth**

**John Buckland**

**Peter Gray**

**Denis Perkins**

**Roger Phillips**

**Graham Jones -Venue Secretary**

| Date                  | Event                                             | Speaker\Coordinator               | Vote Of Thanks                                     | Newsletter Report    |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Thur 26th May</b>  | <b>Friends of the Black Country Museum</b>        | <b>David Baker</b>                | <b>Richard Humphrey</b>                            | <b>David Roy</b>     |
| <b>Thur 2nd June</b>  | Long Walk - Cotswolds                             | <b>Dennis Rose</b>                | Depart from Roy's 9.30am                           |                      |
| <b>Thur 9th June</b>  | Short Walk and Pub Lunch Middleton                | <b>Roy Willson</b>                | Walk starts at 10.30 am                            |                      |
| <b>10th-17th June</b> | Spring Break Sorrento                             | <b>Brian Mallett</b>              | Enjoy the warm sun !!                              |                      |
| <b>Mon 20th June</b>  | Crown Green bowling Gentleshaw                    | <b>Mike Lock</b>                  | Start time 10.00 am                                |                      |
| <b>Tues 21st June</b> | Inter Club Golf Tournament Wishaw Golf Club (£35) | <b>Brian Mallett</b>              | Details on page 4                                  |                      |
| <b>Thur 23rd June</b> | <b>Samuel Johnson<br/>A man of many words</b>     | <b>Joanne Wilson</b>              | <b>Ron Ryman</b>                                   | <b>Harry Medcalf</b> |
| <b>Thur 7th July</b>  | Long Walk Cleeve Prior                            | <b>Rod Crowley</b>                | Depart from Roy's at 9.30 am                       |                      |
| <b>Fri 8th July</b>   | President's Supper (£25)                          | <b>David Rooke<br/>John Cheal</b> | Terrace Restaurant<br>7.00 for 7.30 pm             |                      |
| <b>Thur 21st July</b> | Short walk and Pub Lunch Wightwick                | <b>Tony Ferneyhough</b>           | Walk starts at 1030 am                             |                      |
| <b>Thur 28 July</b>   | <b>Odes of Life and Laughter</b>                  | <b>Ken Gilks</b>                  | <b>Roger Phillips</b>                              | <b>Brian Senior</b>  |
| <b>Thur 4th Aug</b>   | Trip to Ironbridge Museum (£21)                   | <b>John Cheal</b>                 | More details later                                 |                      |
| <b>Mon 8th Aug</b>    | Long Walk                                         | <b>Graham Jones</b>               | Depart from Roy's at 9.30.am                       |                      |
| <b>Thur 18th Aug</b>  | Short walk and Pub Lunch                          | <b>Roy Willson</b>                | Walk starts at 10.30 am                            |                      |
| <b>Tues 23rd Aug</b>  | Visit to Highgrove                                | <b>David Rooke</b>                | Depart by coach.. More details closer to the date. |                      |
| <b>Thur 25 Aug</b>    | Brunel. A Victorian Genius                        | <b>Ray Sturdy</b>                 | <b>Derek Smith</b>                                 | <b>Brian Spencer</b> |
| <b>Thur 1st Sept</b>  | Long Walk                                         | <b>Mike Lock</b>                  | Depart from Roy's at 9.30 am                       |                      |