

THE COMPUTER SWALLOWED GRANNY

The computer swallowed granny.
Yes, honestly its true!
She pressed 'control' and 'enter'
And disappeared from view.

It devoured her completely,
The thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus
Or been eaten by a worm.

I've searched through the recycle bin
And files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet,
But nothing did I find.

In desperation, I asked Google
My searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative,
Not a thing was found 'online.'

So, if inside your 'In-box,'
My Granny you should see,
Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her
And send her back to me.

Ken and his wife Edna went to the air
show every year, And every year Ken would
say, "Edna, I'd like to ride in that helicop-
ter"

Edna always replied, "I know Ken, but
that helicopter ride is one hundred
pounds, and one hundred pounds is one hun-
dred pounds".

One year Ken and Edna went to the
fair, and Ken said, "Edna, I'm 75 years old.
If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never
get another chance".

To this, Edna replied, "Ken that helicop-
ter ride is one hundred pounds, and one hun-
dred pounds is one hundred pounds"

The pilot, of the helicopter, overheard the
couple and said, "Folks I'll make you a deal.
I'll take the both of you for a ride. If you can
stay quiet for the entire ride and don't say a
word I won't charge you a penny!
But if you say one word it's one hundred
pounds".

Ken and Edna agreed and up they went.

The pilot did all kinds of fancy manoeuvres, but not a word was heard.
He did his daredevil tricks over and over again,
But still not a word...

When they landed, the pilot turned to Ken and said, "Gosh, I did every-
thing I could to get you to yell out, but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Ken replied, "Well, to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Edna
fell out, But you know, One hundred pounds is one hundred pounds!"

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 pho-
tos/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.163

May 2012

The AGM 2012 through the eyes and ears of Harry Medcalf

As the official start time of 12 noon approached many members were observed not
sitting down properly. Some were half-squatting, others holding on to chair backs as if
they were waiting for a race to start. Promptly at 12 noon our President called for every-
body's attention and then asked for everybody to sit down. Subdued groans and a few
cries of "resign" from the hungriest.



The main committee for 2012-2013.(left to right)

Dennis Rose, Hon Treasurer. David Rooke, Social Secretary. Fred Nightingale, Past President.
Brian Spencer, President. Rod Crowley, Vice President. and Fred Ditchfield, Hon. Secretary.

The conviviality of lunch continued until the meeting was again called to order. "Are
you all sitting comfortably?" asked Fred – but this was not the introduction to a nice
story but the start of the formal proceedings. Our soon-to-be-changed President read out
a letter of congratulations from Peter Gray and Don Cooper who were absent. In it was a
phrase about "keeping your ear to the ground" which brought forth much laughter. Fred
Ditchfield thought, with everybody in a good mood, this was the best time to ask for an
assistant. Nobody stuck their hand up and - as the saying goes – Fred realised that life is
full of little disappointments! To his great credit though Neal Crabb did subsequently
volunteer his services.

Continued overleaf

Formal matters came and went, the pace was good. What could slow it down? Ah – just a little question of 2 amendments to the Constitution. The first on reducing the size of the main committee brought forth lively discussion, not least of which contributions from two members who, if the resolution was passed, would lose their places on the committee but still urged everybody to support it. Dennis Wright went one better though, he stood up and told everyone he'd resign from being Speaker Secretary if everyone didn't support it. Well that did it and the ensuing vote was overwhelmingly in favour.

A similar amount of time was spent on the next proposed amendment. An impassioned address from Rod Crowley and Bryan Nicholas – the meeting was impressed and another overwhelming vote for the motion. One puzzle though – there were 5 less voting slips than before – had five members managed to fall asleep and miss the vote?

As Dennis Rose stepped forward there were cries of “keep it short” and “just two minutes” and some that your scribe found just too impolite to record. Sensing the opportunity ahead Dennis stepped up to the podium and declared “We're about where we were last year” and then turned and promptly walked away. To overwhelming and deafening applause he blew it, yes he did. Unbelievably he turned around and went back – what a sucker for punishment this man is.

The meeting now moved to install the new President and welcome the new Vice President. Looking to the future our new leader promptly declared that his most important task had been to find someone to take over from him! Our new Vice-President gave a short address during which he advised everybody that he was going deaf and losing his hair. Tim Daly was heard to mutter “I wonder what he's been up to. I can't remember from my medical books exactly what causes both of those problems to occur simultaneously.”

Inter-Club Probus Golf 2012

The defence of the trophy will take place at Stonebridge Golf Club on Wednesday 4th July. It is a most enjoyable day meeting fellow Probus members from the local area. We meet at 8.30 for bacon rolls & coffee and then proceed to play 18 holes followed by a meal in the early afternoon. The cost is £40 and all golfers of any standard are invited to join us.

Brian Mallett



Darling can we have the Central heating on now please ??

But dear, it is now the middle of May !!

In the sleepy Staffordshire countryside

Thursday May 17th was the date for our latest Probus Amble. At 10am a jolly group assembled in the rain on the car park of the Hollybush Inn at Little Hay. However when Roy Willson blew the whistle to start the walk, lo and behold the rain stopped and the sun shone to produce the sort of weather now expected from the Willson repertoire.



After walking towards Weeford through lovely countryside we turned right towards Manly Woods which proved to a nice

steady incline and some members were visibly wheezing by the time we crested the hill which produced magnificent views over south Staffs. We slowly circled around the hills overlooking Little Hay and returned back to the lane approaching the village.

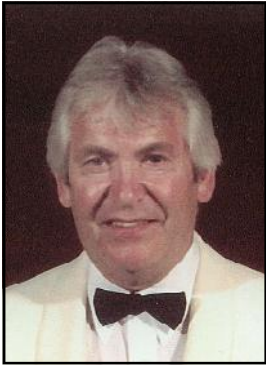
Points of interest on the walk involved seeing many Bluebells and fields of horses and cows. On the route through the village we passed the impressive model railway layout belonging to the Sutton Coldfield model railway society, also the childhood home of the Silvester clan. On reaching the pub, a pleasant 30 mins was spent drinking and chatting before the food arrived. Eventually everyone was served to their satisfaction and in the absence of our President, Rod Crowley gave a vote of thanks to Roy and Mary for another excellent walk (NO stiles).

John Buckland



Footnote Rita and David only appeared for the meal as Rita claimed a serious injury after having stubbed her toe on a door? The jury's out on that one. Thanks again to everyone involved.

Charity Show



John Cheal arranged tickets for a charity show at Sutton Town Hall. Under the auspices of Vesey Rotary, a musical evening had been prepared to raise money for Dogs for the Disabled. (A truly remarkable Charity whereby dogs take part, helping their owners, in everyday activities that the majority of us take for granted). During the evening a presentation cheque for £1000 was given to their representative.

We were in for a treat with the well-known Shrewsbury Male voice choir conducted by Ivor Williams and accompanied by Rachael Whitehouse on the piano. (An extremely accomplished musician in her own right).. You can read more about them on their website via this link.

<http://www.shrewsbury.mvc.btinternet.co.uk/choirpix.htm>

Encouraged to pronounce "Shrewsbury" not "Shrowsbury" a member of the Choir introduced each number in a light-hearted way. Amazing Grace, and Swing Low were amongst the numbers performed. Their home town, and the Choir, has strong ties with Wales and so some numbers were sung in Welsh.



Also performing were the Birmingham Schools Brass Band conducted by Martin Gill. Throughout the evening we were impressed again and again by such exceptional talent from boys and girls in their mid to late teens. Brass bands are probably not for everyone but you could not help being thrilled by the many different arrangements. The Band has performed with many other famous bands and orchestras and they have been on stage at numerous prestigious venues.

Amongst the many items performed, Dark side of the Moon stood out alongside My Grandfathers Clock. The two soloists played with experience which seems far beyond their years.

To complete the evening the last number was "When The Saints Go Marching In". Needless to say by this time the audience was raring to assist the Choir.

A truly delightful evening. Thanks again to John.

Tony Ferneyhough

The Sunshine Boys.

A party of members, wives and partners gathered at the Highbury Little Theatre for a production of Neil Simon's play "The Sunshine Boys".



After the usual Probus reception of drinks and a good old chat in what was a very confined area, we were ushered up to the dining room where we enjoyed an excellent salad meal followed by sumptuous desserts and beverages all provided by the HLT volunteers.

We then assembled in the miniature auditorium to witness excellent performances by the nine actors taking part in this American comedy about two comedians who had worked together for forty three years until eleven years ago and coming together again for a CBS TV special. Both hated each other but agreed, for \$5000, to do the show. But the reunion was bitter sweet and ended in tragedy. The performances by the two main players, Rob Phillips as Willie Clark and his partner, Wiley Bowkett as Al Lewis were outstanding. I did find the first acts somewhat boring but after the interval we were enlivened by the appearance of a glamorous and slightly provocative nurse played by Becky Higgs which I am sure helped the concentration no end!

Once again, thanks to David Rooke for arranging another successful event.

Fred Nightingale.

Today's Events in History.

Queen Victoria born on this day in 1837

Bob Dylan born 1941

Brooklyn Bridge opened this day in 1883

Eric Cantona born 1966

First Eurovision Song Contest on this day in 1956

Empire Day today

General notes:

It has been said that the Newsletter seems to reflect a great deal on the walks. If you would like to see a wider spread of topics, I am always looking for new ideas and am only too willing to include any suitable articles and or photos. This Newsletter is for **all** members and, as such, should reflect as many interests as possible.

Please note that as Rod is away for most of June. If you have any information for him please make sure you make contact with him well beforehand. Thank you.

Check with John Cheal to ensure there are no outstanding monies for the Autumn Break.

Much more use is now being made of the Club Website where it is possible to give greater detail on the many facets of the club's activities. Google for Sutton Park Probus Club. Marking the link in Internet Explorer under 'Favourites' will make it easier to find next time. Let me know if you have photos you wish to share I can arrange to publish them. If you wish to leave comments about items/posts published that gives guidance on how to expand the usage of our Website.

Events and Activities for May to August 2012

Thursday 24th May

Tales of Sutton High Street

Speaker: Elisabeth Alison

Vote of Thanks: Roy Galloway

Newsletter Report: Brian Mallett

Kitchen Rota: John Booth

Peter Gray, Peter Prime

Barry Parsonage, Derek Smith

Friday 1st June

President's Supper at the Terrace

Meet at 7.00 pm

Includes entertainment.

Organisers: John Cheal & David Rooke

Thursday 7th June

Long Walk led by Graham Jones

Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

9th - 16th June

Club holiday in Ibiza

Coordinator: Brian Mallett

Thursday 14th June

Short walk and Lunch

Walk Leader: Tony Ferneyhough

Thursday 21st June

Coach trip to Stratford on Avon

Cost £28 per person

Organisers: Jim Bailey & David Roy

Thursday 28th June

Lifting the Lid on the Garrick Theatre

Adrian Jackson

Vote of Thanks: Peter Prime

Newsletter Report: Dennis Rose

Kitchen Rota: Alf Dineen

Barry Gill, Mike Gospel

Ian Scholes, David Wallis

Monday 2nd July

Long Walk lead 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

Coordinator: Mike Lock

Thursday 12th July

Coach trip to Belton House and

Woolthorpe Manor

Cost £15 + entrance fees for non NT members

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

Brain 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

Wednesday 8th August

Coach to Highgrove Gardens

Depart Streetly 9.30 am

Thursday 16th August

Short Walk and Lunch

Walk Leader: Derek Smith

Future Events: See the website for greater detail.

Thursday 23rd August

The Back Country - Tourist Destination

Keith Cheetham

Vote of Thanks: Ian Scholes

Newsletter Report: Brian Senior

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

Sunday 9th-Wednesday 12th September

Autumn Break at York

Coordinator - John Cheal

Thursday 20th September

Short Walk and Pub Lunch

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 - 14th June

Start: Walk 10.30am.. Lunch: 12.30

Venue: George and Dragon, 120, Main Street, Alrewas. DE13 7AE

Directions: Take A38 towards Burton. Filter turn for Alrewas. Filter road runs parallel to A38 for about 300yds. Turn left into Main Street. Pub is about quarter mile up on left hand side. Parking is at rear of pub. Please use spaces furthest from pub. Please car share where possible as parking is very restricted. Crush park if necessary.

Pub will be open from 10.00 'til 10.30 for use of toilets.

Walk: About 3.5 miles along footpaths, canalside and a short length along a quiet country road.

There are two, low level, stiles. Roy is away but promised to arrange some sunshine !!

Meal Cost: £6.00 per person for a Main and a Pudding. A hot drink afterwards is included.

All diners must book prior to the day.

Organiser: Tony Ferneyhough

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

Long Walk, Thursday 7th June

The walk is at Saltisford Basin and Hatton Locks. It is suitable for all. It begins on the towpath of the Grand Union Canal and follows the very photogenic views of the 21 Hatton Locks. We will then walk through beautiful Warwickshire countryside. The distance is about 6 miles. Those who wish to car share the departure time is 9.30 am from Roy's. Journey time is approximately 45 minutes. If you decide to go direct it is planned to start the walk at 10.30 am.

Full details from Graham at the General Meeting. Details are also on the Club Website.