



Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Ditchfield

Monthly Newsletter

No.202 October

General Meeting 2015

THE PAST BENEATH OUR FEET 24th SEPTEMBER

The interest aroused by the title was quickly brought into doubt when the speaker, Jim Wall, said that his talk would be about metal detecting. His allusion to a commonly held belief that a metal detector is a stick with a Frisbee on one end and an idiot on the other certainly fitted my preconception. A lively, interesting presentation soon changed that. We heard about the detailed research carried out by Clubs before deciding on an area to search, and how (almost) every object found is recorded by description and exact location. How Jim himself had found a chisel, a spear head and a socketed gouge from the Bronze Age; an Iron Age brooch; a silver denarius that was minted in Africa in 47BC and much, much more. We learned how the Normans had established mints all around the country to counteract the Roman coinage in circulation, and that their quality was much below that of the Romans despite the later technology. We learned, too, that the hobby is not a fair weather sport as dry ground gives poor signals for the equipment to detect. Samples of Civil War cannon balls, a Bronze Age coat toggle, a William III love token, and finally someone's gold tooth were among further finds presented for our inspection. – our preconceptions swept aside. A good talk, well presented and enjoyed– but I cannot see myself scouring EBay for a metal detector soon! **Report - David Tippin**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

**“Good judgement comes from experience.
Experience comes from bad judgement.”**

Mark Twain

MAKING YOUR APOLOGIES

A. If you are unable to attend a General Meeting please advise **Allan Powers** by the **Sunday** before that General Meeting. B.If you are unable to carry out your duties on the Kitchen Rota then please try and ‘swap’ with someone from the following month, advising **John Vickers** of the change. C. If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or write the Newsletter Report please get in touch with **Dale Lyons** , **well before** that General Meeting. The **absolute** deadline for reports & news is the **Saturday before** the next monthly meeting.

Events and Activities to January 2016

N.B. ALWAYS CHECK THE BOARDS FOR MORE
EVENT DETAILS OR SEE THE
ORGANISERS

Thursday 22nd October
Club General Meeting
'Laughter Cures Illness'
Speaker: Rob Green
Newsletter Report - Roy Galloway
Vote of Thanks - Rod Crowley

Kitchen Rota: Roger Phillips,
Barry Gill, David Wallis,
Roy Willson, Peter Weston

Thursday 29th October
Dining Evening at The Kababish
Organised by Mike Gospel &
Jim Bailey

Thursday 5th November
Fireworks Long walk & pub lunch
Led by David Rooke

Thursday 12th November
Think Tank + Wing Wah
Organiser— Harry Medcalf

Thursday 19th November
Short walk led by John Cheal
Allan Powers

Thursday 26th November
Club General Meeting
'Gardening Mishaps'
Speakers: Graham & Judy White
Newsletter Report - Denis Perkins
Vote of Thanks—Terry Booth

Kitchen Rota: Selby Betts
John Buckland, Geoff Silvester
Brian Harbourne, Neil Crabb

Monday 7th December
Long walk + Pub Lunch
Led by John Vickers

Friday 11th December
Christmas Lunch at Moor Hall
Organiser— Mike Terry

Monday 21st January
Long Walk & Pub lunch
Mike Haynes

Thursday 28th January
Club General Meeting
Speaker: David Jones
'Jewels of Northern Italy '
Professional Photographer
Newsletter Report
Vote of Thanks—Paul Beamont

Kitchen Rota: Keith Keeley,
Bryan Nicholas, Fred Nightingale,
Barry Parsonage, David Roy

**N.B. No General Meeting in
December or Newsletter.**

*Members are reminded that if you
want to join the Amblers for a pub
lunch you cannot just 'turn up' on
the day but must book in advance.*

EVENTS DETAIL

PUB AMBLE 19th NOVEMBER LONGDON

The amble is approximately 3 miles long and is a fairly easy walk without inclines with a mixture of country lanes, bridle paths, field tracks with 3 stiles. We will begin and finish the amble from the car park of the Swan with Two Necks, Longdon, WS15 4PN which is approximately 40 minutes from the centre of Sutton. . The start is at 10.30 and lunch is booked for 12.30 pm at a cost of £12.50 for a two course meal with tea or coffee (see Board). The menu will only be available to those who have pre-booked. **Organisers - John Cheal and Allan Powers**

LONG WALK – 5 NOVEMBER 2015 TISSINGTON AND ALSOP EN LE DALE

The walk is exactly 6 miles with a few modest climbs. Option to shorter 3 mile walk mainly on the flat. Meet Tissington Trail Car Park, off Tissington Village – 10.15 am for 10.30 am start. Allow 75 minutes. Best postcode - Village Tea Room (DE6 1RA) for Refreshments Café/Toilets. Small parking charge. Lunch at Coach and Horses in Fenny Bentley (DE6 1LB) at 2.00pm. Travel A515 2 miles north of Ashbourne then right, signposted Tissington Village. Through Park into Village car park 200 yards on right. For Lunch return to A515, turn left and proceed for just over 1 mile, pub on left. Mobile on the day: 07967603587.

Led by David Rooke

MORGAN CAR VISIT 8TH OCTOBER

We were impressed during this interesting visit by the modern technology (e.g.engines, brakes) joined with traditional skills no longer found in the motor industry, like woodworking and metal manipulation to produce amazing cars. Luckily, the company archivist was our excellent guide. Morgan cars have never had a wooden chassis. The upper frames are made of Ash which, when laminated, provides strength and lightness. Henry Morgan founded the company in 1910 and started to build patented two and four seater 3-wheelers with motorcycle engines. Known as cyclecars they were economic and relatively cheap. The company is thriving despite a critical documentary by John Harvey Jones – which the company ignored! The company produces a wide range of cars including the Aero series which is powered by a BMW V8 engine to give ‘supercar’ low cost performance. Morgan have had some racing successes including the Le Mans 24 hour race. After the tour, we all enjoyed an excellent lunch at the Swan Inn at Newland. It’s well worth a visit. **Report – Philip Troman**

PUB AMBLE TAMWORTH 15TH OCTOBER

The amble was brilliantly organised by John Fellows. It was a great success with a new venue at the Owl Inn Cliff nr Tamworth with 27 amblers and 42 for lunch. It was very good. **Report - Brian Spencer**



NEWSFLASH— Dateline 18/10/15 = ‘Wheelchair attempt on hilly 13.1 course’

Dale Lyons duly completed the Brum Run half marathon today in a poor time of 2:16:13 primarily due to the mega number of steepish inclines on the City/ Bournville course. He was however the first and only wheelchair with 3,743 behind him over the Broad Street finish-line.



EVENT REPORTS

HANBURY WALK – 1ST OCTOBER



A WELL EARNED BREAK FOR THE 'HANBURY HOBBLERS'.

Fourteen keen long walkers met at the Eagle and Sun pub, near Hanbury to tackle the 6.75 mile Hanbury Circular Walk.. The route took us along the canal side, through fields, woods and up a significant incline to Hanbury Church, where self-service tea, coffee and biscuits were available just over half way, before returning through fields and along the canal side to our starting point. The walk was delightfully varied. The weather couldn't have been better. Even though Dale had come well equipped in case he had to make another attempt at ditch-diving, the walk passed without incident, except for the disappearance of Fred's stick at the Church, which was eventually tracked down – or so I am told - to be in the safe keeping of another member of the group affectionately known as Jones the Magpie. The carvery at the Eagle and Sun was excellent value. Thanks to David and Dale for organising a very enjoyable walk. **Report – John Vickers**

BLITHFIELD AMBLE 17th SEPTEMBER

Twenty five amblers gathered for the Blithfield Walk on what turned out to be a very pleasant, sunny morning. The walk took us through woodlands which afforded at times glorious views over the Blithfield Reservoir and surrounding country side. We also had the opportunity to view a wide range of local birds feeding at two prepared bird hides. An environmentally friendly toilet on route was a welcome diversion. Finally, a ring of mushrooms was discovered on our return where we proceeded to carry out a medieval fertility fairy dance in celebration. The fun didn't end there as some had difficulty in locating the Olde Dun Cow – how embarrassing! However, we enjoyed a superb lunch and Vice President David Rooke warmly thanked Geoff and Sheila Silvester for organising a successful amble. **Report - Allan Powers**



BABES IN THE WOOD - WHERE'S THE REST?

Photo's Rita Rooke

THE MARTIAN—A FILM REVIEW

Some members know I'm interested in science fiction, though they're usually too polite to mention it. What they don't know is that I share their low opinion of much of the genre, particularly in the visual media. I don't appreciate the idiot plots, propensity for loud explosions and inevitable recourse to gobbledygook in epics like 'Star Trek' or the recent 'Interstellar'. It doesn't have to be like that; the very best SF can be suitable for grown-up viewing and is sometimes genuinely thought-provoking. The Martian is adapted - simplified, a bit - from the best-selling novel, which itself has a cliff-hanger in every chapter. Our solitary hero struggles to survive after accidentally being left behind on the first Mars expedition, some twenty /thirty years from now. There is no miracle, no Man Friday, and Matt Damon looks pretty set to die unless he can work out a way to survive. NASA gave the filmmakers access to all their real-world mission plans with the result that the film is almost entirely accurate (only one big fib). It kept me entranced for over two hours, and the Martian scenery is absolutely fabulous – do give it a try! **Peter Weston**

