

## Sutton Park Probus Club ( Founded in 1998 )



Web Site: <http://suttonparkprobus.wordpress.com>

Issue 143

September 2010

### A Clean Break in Bath

For the autumn break a visit to Bath had been arranged for a party of thirty seven.. The hotel was ideally situated in the centre of the city, the main objects of interest being within a few minutes walk away.

It is difficult to précis all that we saw and enjoyed in Bath and its surrounds. (The city holds the coveted World Heritage title). The visit to the Roman Baths must be one of the most memorable, so aided by a first class audio guide, computer animations and film projections, that it was difficult to realize that one was not one of the Romans enjoying this Aquae Sulis two thousand years ago.



Thousands of gallons of hot water are supplied daily to the springs. The water originates in the Mendip hills before percolating

thousands of feet below the earth's surface to be super heated, Thence it returns to supply the hot springs that provided such comfort and fascination to our forbears. Bath Ab-



bey, with its wonderful fan vaulted ceiling and its huge stained-glass windows, was awe inspiring. Not to be missed were the Royal Crescent, the Jane Austin centre, Sally Lunn's house and many other places of interest.

On the second day a coach trip had been arranged to visit Wells, Stonehenge and Salisbury. The visit to Wells cathedral provided an outstanding delight, helped by the excellent guide

(a former master at the renowned local Millfield school). The spectacle of the three scissor arches in the nave, built to counter the sinking tower foundations, will long remain in our memories,

The Royal, decidedly Georgian in appearance, provided excellent value for its food, services and general amenities.

On our 'free' day (Wednesday) we were surprised and pleased to see another Probus group from Belgium !! David and Selby introduced themselves and a cultural exchange to place.

Many thanks are due to Brian Harbourne who arranged the booking, and to David Rooke who organized the activities on site.

**Tim Daly**



## **The Miners' Strike and Arthur Scargill**

The talk booked for the August Meeting was entitled 'The Miners' Strike and Arthur Scargill' to be given by Mike Harrison. Unfortunately, the talk never really discussed the title subjects, but the human elements of the strike from a police viewpoint. It was also a somewhat short talk.

Mike Harrison began by explaining the political events of 1983 and 1984 which lead to the start of the main strike, and the union decisions and the consequences of the directions taken by the miners and the Government and the many unsavory events which followed. It has to be a reflection on the people in command on all sides at the time, that nearly 30 years on there are many miners who have not worked since that time, but worse still that miners ended up fighting miners with families becoming divided and in some cases with these differences still remaining unresolved.

The Government elected to use the police force to keep law and order, through different forces raising teams of officers to be sent to specific areas. All police holidays and overtime was stopped and each officer was paid the equivalent of 16 hours pay for each day they were seconded away from base. Mike Harrison an Inspector at the time, lead a West Midlands based team of one inspector, one sergeant, one liaison officer and 20 police officers. Despite the violence on the picket lines as seen on television and reported in the papers, he commented that there was no shortage of volunteers for these teams.



His team's first visit was to the Durham Coal Field in winter and as he said the time and events really focused on what command of men really meant. They had a difficult journey north on snow bound roads with 6 to 7 feet snow drifts, running out of petrol without the visible means to pay and finally arriving at the Police Training College. The days were long, 4.30 am breakfast so they could be on the picket lines by 6.30 am. For a time they were based on the Easington Colliery, of Billy Elliot fame, and other collieries in the area. They fortunately did not experience the violence experienced in other Coal Fields areas but he commented on the noticeable difference in attitude and procedures of different police forces. He did mention some of the wrong doing of officers which he did not condone, but there was no mention of any police disciplinary proceeding being brought against the offenders.

Members had a wide variety of questions for Mike Harrison which received detailed responses.

**Roy Galloway**

## **Eleventh Anniversary**

Yet another event crept under The President's radar this month, being the eleventh anniversary on 15<sup>th</sup> September of the formation of this special interest group within The Club. The ten members of the group, who are Tim, Mike L, Terry B, Richard, Dennis W, Don, Peter and Brian S (the junior not the Senior) Tony



and Jim meet regularly each Wednesday at each other's homes for a concentrated session of good laughs, many guffaws, loads of errors, and a little bridge!

It was suggested that a Windmill Day was quite a good idea, but sadly it wasn't a trip to London's West End, or Holland but a return to Gentleshaw for a morning session of crown green, then lunch, and suitably oiled, round robin bridge for the afternoon. Our champion bowler was Don, and I believe Richard 'won' at bridge. However we all agreed that this was a great way to celebrate our anniversary, especially the Four Musketeers who were part of its founder membership.

What might happen for the Twelfth Anniversary is a conundrum which we will solve in due course, depending on who is director of the group next year, meanwhile Keep Bidding Chaps! **Brian Spencer**

### Pub Amble

**Date:** 21st October  
**Times:** Walk 10.30 - Lunch 12.30  
**Pub:** The Plough at Huddlesford Ws13 8PY  
**Location:** Midway between Whittington and Lichfield.  
**Directions:** A38 from Sutton. Leave at Lichfield north exit on to the A5192. At the end of the slip road turn right under A38. After 1¼ mile turn left into a lane signposted Huddlesford.  
**Walk:** Country Lanes, fields, and canal towpath - there are four stiles.  
**Meal Cost:** £12 for two courses.  
**Organiser:** Roy Willson

### Advance Notices

#### Trip to Jaguar

If there are sufficient numbers there is an additional trip on **Mon 8th Nov**  
**(Limited to a maximum of 20 per trip)**

#### President's Supper

The Terrace Rest 'rant **Fri 8th July 2011**

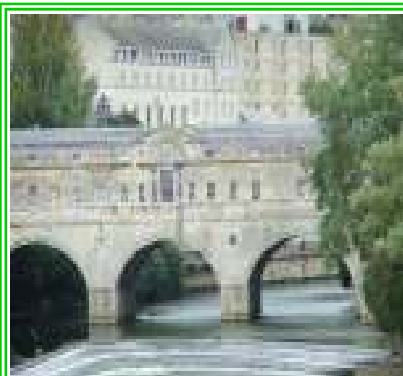
#### Christmas Lunch

Moor Hall Hotel **Fri 9th Dec 2011**

| Date           | Event                                         | Speaker\ Coordinator | Vote Of Thanks                    | Newsletter Report |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Thur 23rd Sept | Aspects of Espionage and Skulduggery in WW II | Derek Smith          | Richard Humphrey                  | Peter Prime       |
| Tues 28th Sept | Ladies invitation bowling (Con. Club)         | Geoff Silvester      | 10.00am for 10.30 start           |                   |
| Thur 30th Sept | Long Walk - New National Forest               | David Rooke          | Meet at Roy's for 09.30 departure |                   |
| Thur 14th Oct  | Boogie Nights - Musical (Town Hall SC)        | Brian Mallett        | Meet at 7.00 pm                   |                   |
| Thur 21st Oct  | Pub Amble - The Plough, Huddlesford (£12)     | Roy Willson          | Meet at Pub for 1030 start        |                   |
| Thur 28th Oct  | A Trip to Cambodia                            | Gifford Foote        | Ray Clark                         | Barry Parsonage   |
| Sat 30th Oct   | Fine Dining - Sutton Golf Club (£24)          | Brian Mallett        | Meet at 7.15 pm for 7.45 pm       |                   |
| Mon 1st Nov    | Trip to Jaguar Car Factory + Meal (£15)       | John Cheal           |                                   |                   |
| Thur 4th Nov   | Long Walk - South Birmingham                  | Dennis Rose          | Meet at Roy's for 9.30 departure  |                   |
| Thur 18th Nov  | Pub Amble - TBA                               | Roy Willson          |                                   |                   |
| Thur 25th Nov  | Jersey Occupation Remembered                  | Don Watson           | Don Cooper                        | Neil Crabb        |

#### Kitchen Rota Thur 28th Oct

**John Booth**  
**Terry Booth**  
**John Buckland**  
**Roger Phillips**  
**Charles Sitch**  
**Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary**



#### Kitchen Rota Thur 23rd Sept

**Bill Arnott**  
**Brain Mallett**  
**Paul Beaumont**  
**Jim Bailey**  
**Ernest Williams**  
**Rod Crowley-Venue Secretary**

### Long Walk – Thursday 30th September 2010

**The Walk:** 6½ miles circular walk, half of which is by canals via Tatenhill Lock, up Battlestead Hill, over Burton Ridge in New National Forest. Toilets at start - second car park at top.

**Meet:** to car share at Roy's at 9.30am for Walk 10.15/10.30am.

**Directions:** Start from **Branston Water Park** signposted some 600 yds before turn off for Burton on Trent on A38 Northbound. Follow Tourist Signs.

**Mobile on day: 07967603587**

### Is there life without Miss Bradbury ??

Departing by various routes we arrived at the village of Biggin. Fifteen of us met up to be greeted by Rita offering us a grand selection of sweets to start us off on our journey. (The Rookes have a wonderful reputation for keeping us fortified on our long walks!)



We set off from Biggin at a steady pace in ideal weather. We soon reached the Tissington Trail and then on into Dovedale. On reaching Bradbury Bank, Tony and Don left our company and took to the hills, allegedly in the hope of finding Julia on one of her

treks, but without success re-joined us (and a little disappointed !) at the junction of Dove-dale and Biggindale for lunch.

With half hour respite we proceeded up Biggindale at a fair pace arriving back in Biggin early afternoon. Our leader, Rod, very kindly then took us to the Coach and Horses Restaurant in Tissington and treated us all to tea and cakes. A fine ending to a lovely day.

**Graham Jones**



(As you can see it's a tough life being a long distance walker !! - Ed)

### Pub Amble 9<sup>th</sup> September

The walk started from the William the Fourth Pub in Alrewas in beautiful sunshine, put down to being led by our weather guru Roy as Brian unfortunately had to attend the dentist. Hope all is well Brian? We set off along the Trent and Mersey canal crossing several bridges, one of which crossed the river Trent. On to Wychnor Church, over a stile and then across fields until we arrived at a very narrow lane which even had miniature traffic lights set into the hedge, and indeed many vehicles came along causing us to stand well back to allow passage. This lane was the access to Wychnor Hall and Golf Club. Passing by the front of Wychnor Hall and the edge of the golf course on our way to even more pleasant country side. A slight blip in navigation almost got us off course and at the same time it started to shower with rain, Roy dismissed this hiccup by jovially declaring, this part of the walk was down to Brian hence the rain.



Back to Alrewas via the Trent and Mersey again and on to the William the Fourth Pub where a fabulous buffet awaited us.

A couple of questions arose on the walk which were:-

Why was Barry wearing one brown glove, and how many ladies did John kiss at one of the kissing gates? Answers on a post card to the editor please.

Once again a great walk, great company, great organisation. How do we keep doing it? **Geoff Silvester**

( Geoff - If we could 'put it in a pot' it I'm sure we would have many sales ! - Ed)