

Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: Brian Spencer

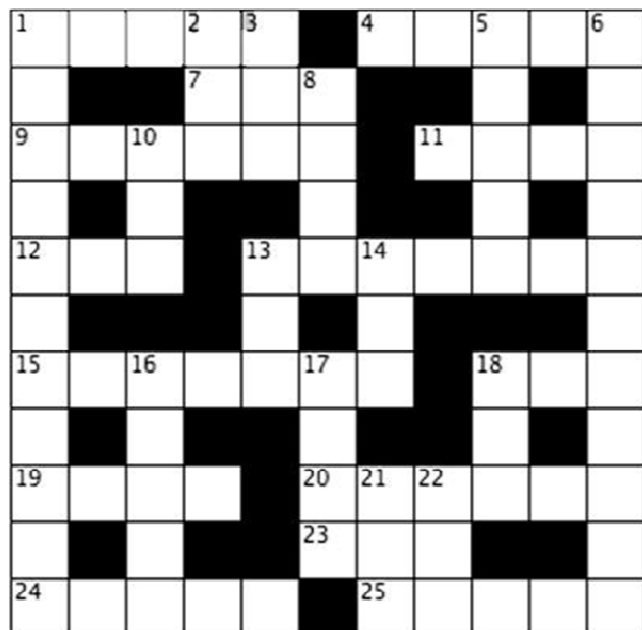
No.167

September 2012

Autumn trip to the historic city of York



A splendid trip described by Roy overleaf.



ACROSS

- 1 Compare (5)
- 4 Alloy (5)
- 7 Assistance (3)
- 9 Cloak (6)
- 11 Fruit (4)
- 12 Fresh (3)
- 13 Citizen soldiers (7)
- 15 Misdemeanour (7)
- 18 Friend (3)
- 19 Ship's prison (4)
- 20 Edge (6)
- 23 Non-amateur (3)
- 24 Feline (5)
- 25 Lukewarm (5)

DOWN

- 1 Frozen dessert (5,6)
- 2 Devour (3)
- 3 Zero (3)
- 5 Broker (5)
- 6 Aerodynamic (11)
- 8 Food Shop (4)
- 10 Currently (3)
- 13 Male (3)
- 14 Untruth (3)
- 16 Throw (5)
- 17 Temporary home (4)
- 18 Farm animal (3)
- 21 Craft (3)
- 22 Fish eggs (3)

Autumn Break in York

31 members and partners arrived at the Monk Bar Hotel on the Sunday, although some had a slow drive towards the end of their journey due to York races traffic. The Hotel is ideal for a break being close to the city centre and the many attractions available in York.

Monday was our first full day in this historic walled city. Famed for its Minster (circa 627), river Ouse and many historic features. The city was founded by the Romans in 71 AD. York grew as a major wool trading centre and became the capital of the northern ecclesiastical province of the Church of England, a role it has retained.

We had a trip out on an open-topped bus around the city. A running commentary kept us informed us of many of the famous landmarks. Although a little windy and a hint of rain it was a very informative ride. The afternoon was the highlight of the holiday when we visited the National Railway Museum. We were given VIP treatment, starting with a talk by Steve Davies the Director of the museum. Later we visited parts of the museum not open to the public including the workshops. The famous Mallard engine was in the final stages of restoration and we were privileged to have a close inspection. The Flying Scot was also being restored on an adjacent track. Next, we had a ride on the footplate of Stephenson's Rocket replica before tea and biscuits. The special treatment we received was courtesy of Harry Medcalf who is a patron. He is obviously well known and highly regarded by the museum staff.



After dinner we had a guided ghost tour around the city. The guide dressed in period costume regaling us with many ghoulish tales. However, I thought our guide was better at telling fairy stories !!

On Tuesday 15 member visited Nunnington Hall and its beautiful gardens. William Parr, brother of Queen consort Catherine Parr, built the oldest remaining part of the Hall in the mid 16th century. The Hall stands within 8 acres of organically managed grounds, with the main walled garden lying to the south of the building which includes lawns, orchards, formal Rose beds, mixed borders, a Tea Garden, and an Iris Garden. The orchards are managed as wildflower meadows containing flowers such as Cowslip, Primrose, Snake's Head Fritillary, Buttercup and Camassia all growing below the fruit trees of which most are traditional Ryedale varieties. During the afternoon 10 hardy folk were led on a walk by Rod Crowley through the marvellous Yorkshire countryside. In the evening, after dinner, President Brain Spencer thanked the organisers especially John Cheal for a wonderful holiday which had been enjoyed by everyone.



Roy Willson

Historical information courtesy of Wikipedia

Middleton Lakes

Roy's creative mind was working well again for this month's pub amble. Middleton Lakes RSPB nature reserve, which is very adjacent to Middleton Hall, is a delightful place to ramble. A tremendous amount of work, by the RSPB, has been carried out over recent years. The land was originally abandoned after all useful mineral deposits, such as gravel and sand, had been excavated. Ain't nature wonderfully smart in covering up the devastation left behind? Nature trails abound, plenty of water which attracts many different species of birds, and gigantic reed beds really help to set a very natural and picturesque scene.

The walk itself was as popular as ever and a large crowd of us gathered at the appointed time. We were spotted by one of the local RSPB officials who distributed leaflets with an enclosed map and a good description of what we could expect. I think the weather guru was pushing the bounds that day as very little sun was apparent! But still it remained dry and gave Roy an unbroken record of many months without rain on a Thursday morning. Walking was moderately easy with much nattering from the pack! The footpaths are well maintained and there were signs along the way describing 'permissive footpaths' - most of which were closed for maintenance work from the hosts of volunteers who are an essential ingredient for the survival of any project such as this. There were good views over the site and only small variety of water birds on the lakes. We finished the day at The Green Man to be joined by a few non-walkers for a very pleasant meal.



Middleton Hall is a Grade II listed building dating back to medieval times. It is situated in the North Warwickshire district of the county of Warwickshire in England, south of Fazeley and Tamworth and on the opposite side of the A4091 road to Middleton village.

The Manor of Middleton was held by the de Frevilles until 1418 and came to the Willoughbys by virtue of the marriage of heiress Margaret de Freville to Sir Hugh Willoughby. The Willoughbys had extensive estates in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere, their principal seat being Wollaton Hall, Nottingham. In the mid 17th century the hall was home to Francis Willoughby the famed mathematician and naturalist (and John Ray) and his descendants holding the title Baron Middleton. The Georgian West Wing dates from the late 18th century but in 1812 the estates and the Barony passed to Henry Willoughby of the Birdsall, Yorkshire branch of the family and Middleton declined in importance in family terms. The Middleton and Wollaton estates were sold in the 1920s. The hall was allowed to fall into disrepair over many years and since 1980 is being restored by a charitable trust. Much work has been done on the main hall, walled garden, Tudor barn complex (now craft shops) and a 16th-century jettied building, which was close to collapse before restoration commenced.

Tony Ferneyhough

Historical information by courtesy of Wikipedia

Publicity Documents

Members are advised that two new documents are now available to promote and facilitate the recruitment of new members. The first is in the form of an introductory/promotional card, which can be given to anybody interested in finding out more about the Club. The second is an updated version of the Club leaflet to provide more detail and will typically be given to prospective members on their first visit to a Club meeting or function. Both documents have been welcomed and approved by the Club Committee and are available from the Vice President as required.

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not a retiree should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the retiree and ask him or her to empty the bathtub"

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

Are you going to pass this on, or do you want the bed next to mine?

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 **approximately 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.

The Black Country – Tourist Destination

Our speaker, Keith Cheetham, was recruited from tourism in Sheffield by Heart of England Tourist Board in 1988 to direct tourism in the Black Country – an area embracing principally the boroughs of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Smethwick and Dudley. His talk took us on a tour of the area highlighting the main attractions.

Wolverhampton is well known for its Victorian Grand Theatre, football stadium, and recently refurbished all-weather racecourse. The speaker moved on to National Trust properties and historical events associated with Charles 2nd's escape after the battle of Worcester via an oak tree at Boscobel House and Moseley Old Hall, then to Wightwick Manor of William Morris fame and recently the venue for an Antiques Roadshow.

Keith moved on to Walsall with its modern art gallery and its Garman-Ryan collection of Epstein statues and drawings and the Leather Museum. Sandwell's visitor attractions include Haden House, a Victorian gentleman's residence now being refurbished as a museum and Oak House, a furnished yeoman's town house built about 400 year's ago and visited by Charles Wesley. Better known is Sandwell Park Farm,



originally owned by the Earl of Dartmouth. Nearby in Newton Road is the cottage of Bishop Francis Astbury, the first American Methodist bishop at the time of the American Civil War.

Stourbridge is well known for Hagley Hall the home of Viscount Cobham and for old buildings such as the reputedly haunted 17th century Talbot Hotel coaching inn and the Worsley canal locks.

Dudley Castle and Zoo is still popular and is being refurbished but The Black Country Museum remains the main attraction in the area, created to give a composite reminder of the many industries associated with coal, iron and canal transportation. Also nearby is Himley Hall, once site of the home of the Earls of Dudley. The present building was taken over by the NCB and has now been transformed by Dudley CC into a leisure and recreation centre.

Keith had been instrumental in introducing period costume for guides at numerous visitor attractions throughout the area and he continues speak in retirement on a wide range of travel and historical subjects.

The talk was also memorable for the fact that only one of the Members present originated from the Black Country and that, apart from Brian Senior who gave the vote of thanks, no mention was made of "Aynuk and Ayli"!

Ian Scholes



Events and Activities for June to October 2012

Thursday 27th September

Magnet Therapy

Alan Cooke

Vote of Thanks: Derek Smith

Newsletter Report: John Booth

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 led by Roy Willson

Thursday 18th October

Theatre visit - Sutton Town Hall

Cost: £13.50 per person

Coordinator: Brian Mallett

Thursday 25th October

Remembering Not To Forget

David Howe

Vote of Thanks : John Fellows

Newsletter Report: John Buckland

Kitchen Rota: Selby Betts

John Buckland, Harry Medcalf

John Longmore, Alfred Wallwork

Monday 5th November

Long Walk led by Brian Spencer

Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Saturday 10th November

Fine Dining at Sutton Coldfield Golf Club

Cost £26 per person

Organiser: Brian Mallett

Thursday 15th November

Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Thursday 22nd November
The Forensic Science of Handwriting

David Bexendale

Vote of Thanks: Ron Ryman

Newsletter Report: Selby Betts

Kitchen Rota: John Booth

Terry Booth, Dennis Perkins

David Roy, John Cheal

Thursday 6th December

Long walk led by Rod Crowley

Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Friday 7th December

Christmas Lunch

Event Manager: John Purnell

**There is NO General Meeting in
December**

2013

Thursday 10th January

Long Walk led by David Rooke

Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

Thursday 17th January

Lunch - Birmingham College of Food

Cost. Approx £14 per person

Coordinator Brian Mallett

Thursday 24th January

Pompeii - the Nice and the Naughty

from 2000 Years Ago

John Reedy

Vote of Thanks: Ernest Williams

Newsletter Report: John Cheal

Kitchen Rota: TBA

Thursday 7th February

Long Walk led by Geoff Sylvester

Direct or meet at Roy's to car share

See the Club Website for additional photos

Thursday 14th February

Skittles Evening

Organisers: Jim Bailey & Mike Gospel

Thursday 21st February

Short Walk led by Brian Spencer

(Buck's Fizz)

Thursday 28th February

A Potted History of the 20th Century

(Part1) Martin Harrison

Vote of Thanks: Tim Daly

Newsletter Report: Neil Crabb

Kitchen Rota: TBA

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 11th October

Time: Walk 10.30 (arrive by 10.15)

Venue: Horse and Jockey, Freeford, Whittington, WS14 9JE

Directions: The pub is located on the A51 Lichfield to Tamworth road about 2 miles east of Lichfield

The Walk: An easy amble of about 2.75 miles. Mostly on farm tracks and country lanes. There are NO stiles.

Lunch: 12.30

Organiser: Roy Willson.

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

Winter walks will start earlier and there will be a pub stop for lunch.

Long walk - Thursday 4th October

Hall Dale from Milldale (White Peak)

Starting from the car park in Milldale the walk visits Hall Dale, one of the prettiest of Dovedale's companions. It includes field and riverside paths, the climb through Hall Dale and an ascent up to Alstonefield. Limited walking on lanes. Length of the walk is approximately 6 miles.

Meet at Roy's to leave at 9.30 a.m. Journey time depending on traffic is between 1 and ¼ hours. Meet at Milldale car park to begin walk between 10.30- 10.45. Distance from Streetly 40 miles. Full details from Barry Gill at the meeting.