

A DAY OUT IN LONDON – A MUSEUM, EXHIBITION, SHOW.

When did you last take a day out in London? Rarely? Occasionally? Regularly? Which-ever one it is here's a suggestion to pack in 3 great activities and still catch the late train back to Brum. Janet had booked in to see an evening show – High Society at the Old Vic but decided to arrive earlier in the day and check out two other big attractions with our friends from Hampstead. One of these we hadn't visited for years - Westminster Abbey, and the other the V & A (Victoria & Albert) museum for the acclaimed Alexander McQueen's 'Savage Beauty' exhibition.

So first up was the Abbey on a hot packed London Saturday and if you hadn't booked here's a tip; you don't have to join the long queue (30/40 min. wait) if you're paying by credit card. Just go to the pre-booked right side entrance and you're in – sorted! Audio guides come with the £17 entry and it's a bargain for what is an enormous mausoleum of marble edifices to Britain's (mostly) great and good. I particularly liked the Tomb for the Unknown Soldier and poet's corner which is more a mini-museum on its own. Don't miss the Coronation Chair on the way out—minus the Stone of Scone - the Scots have reclaimed it!

Next up, a quick tube from Street for the V&A and if you haven't, for London. It's fast, cheaper and a approached so a quick snack stop at a then off to see Alexander. Our was a freebie – the entry price is £16 about his take on (extreme) ladies this just blew me away! Multi media creations both static and moving were dragged out! His themes took on (animals); the sporting (bullfights); Creations incorporating animal skins, outrageously surrealistic with many tish tartans and Spanish bullfights. exhibition especially for shoe fetishists who could check out a marvellously bizarre exhibition of extravagant styles from around the world and through the ages. My favourite (naturally) was the running nut who had displayed hundreds of his trainers, from Green Flashes to Nike Super-lites.



Westminster to Kensington High get an Oyster Card from Transport great queue avoider. Lunch time local deli the Brompton Market and friends are Friends of the V&A so it and finishes August 2nd. It's all fashion which I'm not really into but caverns filled with his outrageous absolutely magnetic – I had to be board the ghoulis; the fierce the masochistic and many more. feathers, fur, lace, metals and were based on national themes e.g. Scot-

Adjacent to 'Savage' was a linked exhibition especially for shoe fetishists who could check out a marvellously bizarre exhibition of extravagant styles from around the world and through the ages. My favourite (naturally) was the running nut who had displayed hundreds of his trainers, from Green Flashes to Nike Super-lites.

My friend Phil's wife Mina then chauffeured us to Waterloo and the Taz (Greek) Restaurant a stones throw from the theatre. Amazingly she found a parking spot just outside! After a tasty pre-theatre meal at a bargain 2 courses £12.50 we strolled the 100 yards of Waterloo Road to the show.

They have revamped Old Vic into a theatre in the round, the original stage being replaced by another tranche of seating. 'High Society' is one of my favourite films and the show really did it justice with a fast moving energetic performance of song and dance. A white grand piano miraculously rose from the stage playing audience requests as a warm up. All the favourites were there with True Love, Well Did you Evah, Who Wants to be a Millionaire and High Society. A truly 'Wow' point was the appearance of **another** grand piano rising Blackpool Ballroom-like to join the other. Both were played by demented pianists racing each other round to play alternative versions of the same tune! It brought the audience to its feet! Ends 22nd August tickets from £30. www.lovetheatre.com

Then it was back to Hampstead for a welcome nights rest to be surprised at what we'd packed in - in only one day in London.



Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Ditchfield

Newsletter

No.199

July 2015

Annual General Meeting 2015.

Thursday 25th June

THE STAFFORDSHIRE REGIMENT

'BATTLE OF THE SOMME 1916'

August 2014 marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War in 1914 and one of that War's most (in)famous battles. This was the topic of our visiting speakers from the Staffordshire Regimental Museum at Lichfield, Dave Shergold and Mike Webley. They work there as volunteers having retired as a police officer and a schoolteacher. They focussed on the southern area of the Battle of the Somme on the 1st July 1916 and the part played by the 1st Battalion Staffordshire Regiment (Now disbanded and absorbed into the Mercian Regiment). Overall on the 1st July 1916 an Allied attack on the Western Front suffered 20,000 British troops killed with 40,000 casualties – a catastrophic price for little gain. Although the Regiment was equipped and battle ready, earlier campaign losses had reduced it from 1,400 to 78 men and the replacements of men and officers were inexperienced, often with only one day's training. The heavy woollen serge uniform was extremely uncomfortable and helmets then were not issued. During the talk our own 'Corporal' Jones (SPPC not Dads' Army) modelled the combat kit worn for battle which could weigh more than 60lbs! The Staffordshire's objective was to capture the small village of Mametz where the Germans were well dug in with eight trench lines. The 'Stafford's' advance was cut to ribbons by the machine guns because the enemy were forewarned due to the preceding seven-day bombardment which completely failed to subdue the defenders. However, a gallant final push overcame the enemy but at enormous cost. 75% of the officers were killed and 89 members out of its total strength of 800 died on that day. NCO's were temporally promoted



to officers and many were awarded gallantry medals for their bravery – small recompense indeed! The talk had been well researched and the presentation captured the attention of the audience for the most part with visual aids and equipment demonstrations. Certainly the horror of trench warfare was clearly demonstrated with our soldiers walking to almost certain death. They deserve our greatest admiration and respect for their courage!

PROBIANS RECIPE OF THE MONTH (particularly for beginners)

PANCAKES A LA MODE

These can be either sweet or savoury switching sugar for salt.

A simple, filling, quick and nutritious snack or meal choice.

Makes about 4 good sized pancakes.

INGREDIENTS

50 gr Self-raising or plain (cake flour) . 150 ml Milk (full cream / semi-skimmed). 1 Large Egg. Melted butter (optional) . Sugar / Salt. Sunflower oil for frying.

EQUIPMENT

Mixing bowl (2 litre). Whisk. 8" Non-stick frying pan. Plastic scraper. 2.5" dia. Ladle. Plastic spatula. 10" plate.

METHOD

Crack egg into a mixing bowl with milk and beat until mixed, add flour and beat until a smooth texture. Melt butter and add to batter whisking quickly. This adds a richer texture and flavour (recommended). Sieve batter to ensure a smooth finish. Add extra baking powder (teaspoon) for a thicker American style pancake. Add small amount of sugar (dessertspoon) or pinch of salt. Rest for 20 minutes. Consistency should be similar to double cream or Yorkshire Pudding batter. If slightly thicker will take longer to cook.

COOKING METHOD

Add teaspoon of oil to hot pan and swirl around. Pour in 1 ladle of batter and swirl around to pan edges. Batter should sizzle if pan is hot enough. After about ½ minute flip or turn with spatula for another ½ minute. Slide onto sugared/ plain 10" plate.

FILLINGS

SWEET Traditions! (lemon/sugar/maple syrup). Banana/ Cherry Jubilee/ Stewed apple & cinnamon/ Ice cream etc. etc. SAVORY. Diced bacon & maple syrup/ Chilli/ Chicken stir fry – piri-iri – jerk/ Tuna/ Bolognese/ Meat balls. VEGGIE. Fried tomato & onion/ Guacamole/ Cheese & pickle/ Mixed Herbs/Cauliflower gratin.

Or use your imagination!

Recipe by - Le Chef de Cuisine



LAUGHTER'S THE BEST MEDICINE!

THE WEAKER SEX?

Six Probus members and a lady from the Womens Institute were caught in a fire on top of a building. Rescue services sent a helicopter which sent down a rope for them to cling to, which they did. Unfortunately the rope was frayed and they realised one person had to let go to save the others but no-one was willing to volunteer until the lady spoke. "I will volunteer because women are the weaker sex and have to support their men-folk and children – that is their role. Men are the dominant sex and therefore must be saved".

On hearing this all the men applauded!

WALKS & VISITS



PROBUS AMBLE SLITTING MILL RUGELEY

16th JULY

Fourteen intrepid Probian walkers arrived at The Horns Inn in true Roy Wilson weather. We set off and very quickly were faced with an alarming notice – which we ignored as it was only relevant in winter! Undeterred, we carried on walking



round the lake and were treated to the sight of a heron coming in to land. Our lovely walk continued over a wooden bridge and waterfall along the side of a cornfield. When we turned right at the end near some houses we all became very quiet so we would not disturb the "old chap" we saw sitting asleep in the garden but on further scrutiny it turned

out to be a dummy! It was a super walk through a forested area where there was an abundance of foxgloves. Further on

we came close to the Go Ape site and John Fellows was convinced he saw Marlene go past on the zip wire! On our return we enjoyed a good lunch having been joined by other non walking

Probus members.

All in all a very enjoyable morning.



Report – Mike Taylor



MAKING YOUR APOLOGIES

If you are unable to attend a General Meeting please advise **Allan Powers** by the **Sunday** before that General Meeting.

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.

If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or write the Newsletter Report please get in touch with me, **Dale Lyons**, **well before** that General Meeting. My absolute deadline for reports & news is the **Saturday before** the next monthly meeting.

E-mail address; dale@5rhg.co.uk

WALK & EVENT REPORTS

CHARLCOTE LONG WALK THURSDAY 2ND JULY



Thirteen lucky walkers gathered at Charlecote Park Warwickshire on Thursday 2nd July for a 5.4 mile summer walk led by Graham Jones. The route was circular, taking in Wellesbourne and passing close to Newbold Pacey and Hampton Lucy. We expected rain, but Graham very kindly postponed it for

us, and the weather was just right for walking in the Warwickshire countryside. Overgrown undergrowth on the first part of the walk rendered few photo opportunities for Rita. Her patience was rewarded however when the countryside opened out later in the walk to allow her the chance of a decent picture, even though some members tried to hide in the rapeseed fields.

Thanks are also due to Dale for his impromptu display of ditch abseiling, and to Graham for a very pleasant walk indeed.

Report – John Vickers



TRIP TO CHARLCOTE & BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER

Thursday 9th July

On a bright and breezy Thursday morning the Probians met in Aston Wood's car park at 8.45 for our journey to the Cotswolds with a day trip to Bourton and Charlecote Park. Our friendly coach driver Michael was one of Johnson's more experienced. Unfortunately, cancellations reduced the group to 19 for the outing. After a detour to Charlecote Park for Fred and Pat we proceeded to Bourton for coffee, before a delightful tour of the village, which is enhanced by a stream running through it. A little later in small groups we made our way for lunch at about

12.30pm to the

Croft Restaurant a few yards from the stream where we managed to enjoy a quick snack of tasty food and good service. Then it was onward to Charlecote Park. The National Trust members enjoyed a guided tour of the House and strolled the extremely extensive gardens in the hot afternoon sun. At mid-afternoon we had tea and cake in the Orangery before leaving at 4.30pm. All in all it was a lovely day out that was expertly organized as usual by John Cheal. **Report - David W Wallis**



**ISSUE SO
KNOW IT MAKES SENSE!**

THE WINNER'S PRIZE WILL BE PRESENTED AT THE AUGUST MEETING.

**THE PHOTO
COMPETITION
WILL CONTINUE IN THE AUGUST
LET'S HAVE MORE PHOTOS = YOU**



Your feedback on the Newsletter

LARGER FONTS! *FEWER ERRORS ON EVENTS.*

Much shorter reports (speakers / walks)

I enjoy reading it (Probus wife)

LETS HAVE A YOUNG PROBIANS PHOTO COMPETITION

Events and Activities to October 2015

Thursday 23rd July Club General Meeting

'Tamworth Castle'

Speaker: Carol Haines

Newsletter Report; Rod Crowley

Vote of Thanks: Barry Gill

**Kitchen Rota; Jim Bailey,
John Cheal, Ray Clark,
Rod Crowley, John Vickers**

Friday 24th— Sunday 26th July
Weekend in Liverpool
Organised by Jim Bailey

Monday August 3rd
Long Walk led by Barry Gill

Sunday August 9th BBQ
Organised by John Buckland

Thursday August 13 Middleton Hall
Organised by Harry Medcalf & Graham Jones

Thursday August 20th
Short walk led by Jim Bailey

Thursday 27th August Club General Meeting

Canine Partners Charity

Dogs for the disabled

Speaker: Julia Hurley

Newsletter Report: Mike Haynes

Vote of Thanks: Neil Crabb

**Kitchen Rota: John Carrington,
Alf Dineen, John Fellows,
Mike Gospel, David Tippin**

Thursday 3rd September
Long Walk led by Dennis Rose

Friday 4th—8th September
Autumn Break
Organised by Mike Gospel

Thursday 17th September
Short walk led by Geoff Sylvester

Thursday 24th September Club General Meeting.

'The Past Beneath our Feet'

Speaker: Jan Wall

Newsletter Report—David Tippin

Vote of Thanks - Dennis Perkins

**Kitchen Rota; Richard Humphrey,
Brian Mallett, Alan Powers,
Dennis Rose, Mike Terry.**

Thursday 1st October
Long Walk led by
David Tippin & Dale Lyons

Thursday 8th October
Morgan Car Company - Malvern
Organised by Philip Tromans

Thursday 15th October
Pub Amble led by Brian Spencer

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 &

*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.*

The Martley Circular – Long Walk Monday 3rd August

This is a lovely walk of 6.5 miles in the Teme Valley and centred on the village of Martley, near Great Witley. It passes through traditional orchards, pastures and ancient woodlands before climbing onto a ridge with views across Worcestershire. The final section of the walk is along the River Teme. Journey time from the Sutton area is about an hour. Meet at St Peter's Church car park in the village to begin the walk at 10.30 a.m. Bring pack lunch or there's a pub at the finish.

Distance from Sutton area is 41 miles. Directions - take M5 to Junction 5 (Droitwich), then A.38 signed Worcester. After 2-3 miles take A.4133 (A.433) to Ombersley and Tenbury Wells, passing Holt Heath and Little Witley to Great Witley. Turn left on B.4197 to Martley (31/2 miles). On entering village turn left at garage and follow signs to St Peter's Church, Park at bottom of Church Lane in car park. 07946 228711 Confirm by 31st July please.

Organiser – Barry Gill



SUTTON PARK AMBLE 20th AUGUST

10.30 Start from the usual Sutton Leisure Centre car-park—nearest the Park. A gentle 2-3 mile stroll through the Park with lunch at the Toby Inn. Pre-booking for lunch is essential says Jim! **Organiser - Jim Bailey**



SUMMER BBQ—AUGUST 9th

HOWDY FOLKS! This is a later warning message for your diaries. The annual BBQ this year has been moved back to **Sunday August 9th**.

In the past we have hired traditional Jazz bands and Caribbean bands so this year your future president decided to try something different, and after much searching I have hired a top Country band. Tony Wall and his music have played in America, and have also appeared on both TV and radio. He has a large website if you want to get the feel of his music.

Marquees have been ordered and our usual Pig Roast will be provided, also all drinks. The venue is as always the Fellows ranch at Middleton. Do wear Western costumes, but no guns please!

Let's make this a bumper year as the event may possibly be coming to an end in the future. The event board will be out in May, so make sure that your names are on it as places are limited by the size of the Marquee.

Report - John Buckland

