

LONDON MARATHON 2015 – SUNDAY 26th APRIL A ‘WHEELIE’ GOOD RUN!

I’m still around and feeling good after my best London marathon time for about 10 years – 4:36:16 and in a wheelchair! I would have been faster but couldn’t get through the masses on the down-hills. The Ever-presents are now down to 12. Two didn’t make it through accident (during the race) and serious illness. The wheelchair crashed at about mile 17 into a barrier (due to errant runner) and damaged the steering so had to ‘nurse’ it home for the last 9 miles. A few aching shoulders and back muscles but otherwise OK and maybe ready for a repeat in 2016. Before the start the Marathon ‘Police’ almost barred me as they couldn’t find my number on their computer and didn’t realise how important I was – but eventually common sense prevailed. – *Full exciting report on the club website compliments of Tony Fernyhough.*



Dale Lyons



MAKING YOUR APOLOGIES

If you are unable to attend a General Meeting please advise **Mike Terry** 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



Sutton Park Probud Club

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Ditchfield

Newsletter

No.197

May 2015

Annual General Meeting 2015.

Thursday 28th May

The 2015 Annual General meeting of the Sutton Park Probud Club marked the transfer of the Club’s presidency from John Fellows to Fred Ditchfield. John’s retiring speech was received with the high regard in which members hold him and the way in which he has discharged his duties over the year. Fred committed himself to maintaining the success of the Club, and we look forward to the Club prospering further under his leadership. David Rook was installed as our new Vice-president.

Members thanked Alfred Wallwork, who stepped down from the Long Walks Committee after serving for eleven years, and Brian Mallett was also thanked for his contribution to the Social Committee over nine years.

Members received budget information and the balance sheet for 2014-15.

The new PA equipment was made good use of and members rounded off this year’s AGM by voting to donate the old PA equipment to the local Parkinson’s Association.



John Vickers

THANK YOU PETER WESTON

For the past two years Peter has produced the club Newsletter with some flair, originality, creativity and without any hiccoughs. Well done and a happy ‘retirement’ Peter.

ADDENDUM TO THE LONG WALK 13th APRIL. SOHO COCONUTS

"In my report on the Urban Heritage walk last time, space precluded me from mentioning Coconut Alley. This is a nickname for Soho Loop on the Birmingham Canal, formed when the original contour canal (Brindley 1768) was modified/straightened by the Main Line Birmingham Canal (Telford) 1823. The loop became known among the boating fraternity as Coconut Alley, as it often had coconuts floating in it. Urban myth was that these half-coconuts contained ashes of Hindus and this loop was their equivalent to the Ganges. As usual, this urban myth was not factually correct." John Carrington



LAUGHTER'S THE BEST MEDICINE!

The Moseley Bog

The 'Moseley Bog' is a nature reserve situated on the south side of Birmingham which supports a wide range of plants, animals and insects. It was the childhood playground of 'The Lord of the Rings' and 'The Hobbit' author, JRR Tolkien who lived nearby, and inspired the 'old forest' in his books. In the 70's plans were drawn up to build on 'The Bog'. A vigorous campaign was launched by the community to oppose the move. One of the protesters called at the home of a local Crown Court Judge and asked his wife to sign the petition. Having no knowledge of 'The Bog' and not wishing to sign anything contentious she declined. However, curious to learn more she telephoned the local Police Station, Woodbridge Road, and enquired of the Duty Police Constable. "Where is 'The Moseley Bog'?", to which he replied, innocently "The only one I know madam is the Gents in St. Marys Row". She reported him to the Chief Constable for being rude!

Graham Jones WMP (ret)



WALK & VISIT PLANNER

Thursday 4th June, Long Walk Edge Hill near Banbury, led by Geoff Silvester

The walk is 6.5 mls with 6 stiles and I would describe it as moderate to hard depending on mud and weather. Travel from Sutton on the M40 take junction 12 signposted Gaydon. Next at the island turn left B4100 for about 2mls past MOD Kinton and then turn right signposted Radway and Edgehill. At T junction turn left up the hill, again signposted Radway & Edgehill. Next take third on the left signposted Ratley Village only and park immediately on the wide left hand verge. Travel time is approx 1 hour from Sutton and bearing in mind a lot of people are attending the Garrick the same night I would like to get the walk under way at 10.00am. There are no toilets on route so the last chance would be Warwick Services on the M40 which is about 38 miles from home. Could you please confirm if attending and it would be helpful if you could double up as parking is limited. My contact number is 07884494535 - Geoff Silvester



Thursday 18th June, Stonall Pub Amble led by Alfred Wallwork & Geoff Silvester

Our June amble begins at the 'Old Swan' at Stonall, and is a pleasant 3½-mile walk through open country around Stonall. Good views, no stiles, and hopefully no mud. Arrive at 10.00am, lunch back at the pub from around 12.00 onwards. - Alfred Wallwork

Thursday 2nd July, Long Walk around Charlcote Park, led by Graham Jones

Setting out from the National Trust car-park at Charlcote, this is a 6-mile walk through beautiful South Warwickshire countryside (two stiles). Meet at 10.15am to set out at 10.30am. The walk should take approx. 2½ hours. We can eat our own refreshments at picnic tables or obtain something from nearby garden centre or Pheasant Inn. - Graham Jones

Bourton on the Water / Charlcote Park – Thursday 9th July

We leave Aston Wood Golf Club at 8.45 for 90 minute coach journey to the picturesque Cotswold village of Bourton-on-the-Water. With a stream running through the centre, it is a most interesting place – shops, museum, cafes, restaurants. We leave here at 1.30 so there will be time for morning coffee, a stroll and lunch at one of the many cafes. We arrive at Charlcote Park at 2.30 and have plenty of time to visit the house, gardens and enjoy afternoon tea in their restaurant. We shall leave at 5.45 and arrive home at approx. 7.00pm. PLEASE NOTE: It is a **National Trust Property**. Cost £15 Nat Trust Members or £24 Non Members. The final destination has been changed from Croome Park. **Brian Mallett / John Cheal**

Pub amble - 16th July

This walk will start at the Horns Inn in Slitting Mill, Rugely, walking at the edge of Cannock Chase on undulating paths. No stiles, hopefully no mud, followed by an excellent lunch at the Horns. Form out at the next meeting and further info to follow.

Organisers - Barry Parsonage and Mike Taylor.

WALK & EVENT REPORTS

MELBOURNE & BREEDON-ON-THE-HILL

General Election day, 7th May 2015

15 Members and wives found quietness and beauty far from election-day fever amongst the gentle countryside between Melbourne and Breedon-on-the-Hill. We discovered masses of bluebells in the woods, swathes of bright yellow rape fields, an old village lock-up with a conical roof, a Saxon priory church originally founded as a monastery perched high on the site of a hill fort, a parkland golf course with extremely wide fairways but no bunkers, and the beautiful Melbourne Pool. However without the presence of 'fair



weather' Roy Willson, we also experienced some re-freshing(?) heavy spring showers which tested the barrier properties of our walking gear! Instead of eating our sandwiches on suitably placed seats in the Priory churchyard overlooking some wonderful vistas we had to take refuge in the box pews of the church itself! Nevertheless everyone enjoyed this delightful walk which straddles the border between Derbyshire and Leicestershire, and afterwards some of us took advantage of refreshments that were available in the tea-room at Melbourne Hall.

Report - Mike Lock Photos- Rita Rooke

A stroll in Appleby Parva—14th May

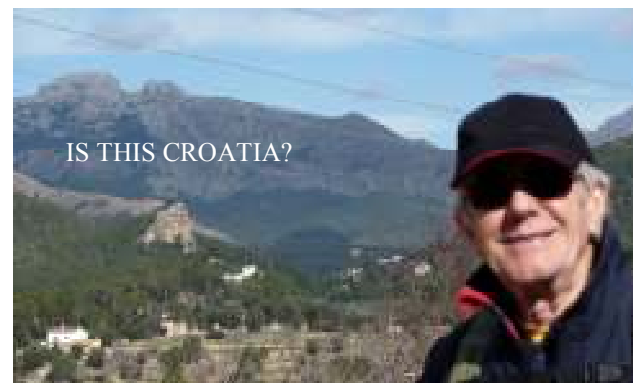
Eighteen intrepid walkers ignored all weather forecasts and enjoyed an interesting walk over the pathways and fields of A.P. . Fine weather, good company and the opportunity to have time to chat whilst taking part in a relatively flat walk are an important part of our 'pub ambles'. We covered the 3.1/4 miles in reasonable time and were joined by 17 fellow members and partners for lunch at Appleby Inn Hotel. The food was good and the noise levels high as you would expect on such an occasion. Our thanks to Mike Terry and John Fellows for giving us an excellent day. **Report - Brian Mallett Photo - Mike Terry**



P.S. Did you miss the Bank Holiday weekend's (24th—26th) floating extravaganza in Liverpool as part of the 170th Anniversary of the Cunard Shipping Lines? This featured the arrival of the three Queens cruise ships? QE, QM2 & QV. If you didn't then please write a report for the June Newsletter - OK!

A WARM WELCOME FROM YOUR NEW EDITOR

For the past two years Peter Weston has done a fantastic job in juggling a number of balls, outside of producing a first class Newsletter each month. So for me the challenge is to attempt to get close to the standard that Peter has set and to do this I'll need lots of your support and involvement. Some of your ideas have been included in this issue but essentially Peter's format will be maintained for continuity and consistency. To ensure this objective is met I would very much welcome feedback on this and every issue so that the Newsletter is truly representative of its members.
Dale Lyons



Your feedback on the Newsletter (So Far)

Reports too long (speaker/walks). Include non Probus events. Too many pages. Include items for sale. Members should self print (where possible). Include other club/ social visits.

Events and Activities to August 2015

Thursday 28th May Club General Meeting

'The Restoration of Middleton Hall'

Speaker; Brian Teall
Newsletter Report: Selby Betts
Vote of Thanks: Jim Bailey

Kitchen Rota; Mike Lock,
Ian Scholes, Roy Galloway,
Dennis Wright, Dennis Perkins

Thursday 4th June
Long Walk led by Geoff Silvester

Thursday 4th June
'Buddy' at the Garrick Theatre
Organised by Brian Mallett

Sunday 7th-14th June
Summer Break in Sicily
Organised by Bob Badham

Thursday 18th June
Pub Amble around Stonall
Led by Alfred Wallwork &
Geoff Sylvestor

Thursday 25th June
Club General Meeting
'The Staffordshire Regiment;
The Battle of the Somme, 1916'

Speaker: Mr David Shergold
Newsletter Report: Brian Harbourne
Vote of Thanks: Peter Terleski

Kitchen Rota; Peter Gray,
Dale Lyons, Paul Beaumont,
Peter Prime, Tim Daly

Thursday 2nd July
Long Walk led by Graham Jones

Thursday 16th July
Pub Amble led by Alfred Wallwork

Friday 17th July
President's Supper at Swinfen Hall
Organised by Harry Medcalf

Thursday 23rd July
Club General Meeting
'A Humorous Look at Retirement'

Speaker: Mr David Berry
Newsletter Report; David Tippin
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

Thursday 27th August
Club General Meeting

Canine Partners Charity
Dogs for the disabled

Speaker: Julia Hurley
Newsletter Report: David Tippin
Vote of Thanks: Neil Crabb

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

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.

SUMMER BBQ—AUGUST 9th

HOWDY FOLKS! This is an early 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



TONY'S SECRET INTEREST! DAWN OF THE SPACE RACE

Back in late 1957 Russia 'stole a march' on America by being the first to launch an (unmanned) satellite in low earth orbit around the world. Eventually they decided to call it **Sputnik**. This event sparked thoughts in my mind at the beginning of the 'space race'. This, and other events, convinced me to become a radio amateur following the progress of several of these launches including the first animal in space, **Laika** - a dog (which did not survive the journey).

Technology gathered momentum and the Americans - originally caught napping, launched their own - Explorer 1 - not long after, in January 1958. In 1961 saw the launch of the first wholly owned and financed radio amateur satellite - **Oscar 1**.

This fuelled my interest even more and, by the late 60's I was in touch with a retired NASA scientist call Bill Clarke (do you remember how long replies by letter took ??) He supplied me with a formula for 'placing' satellites in space at any given time. There are numerous factors that affect an artificial satellite's progress and obtaining the correct information was very longwinded. All this was academic until I bought my first computer in 1979.

I learnt a very commonly used language to develop a computer program that would finally help me. And eventually other programs help me track the current satellites and I started listening to their progress across Europe and the Arctic. One of the highlights for me, was being able to talk to one of the Shuttle commanders Tony England (call-sign WOORE). They carried a variety of amateur instrumentation and **I was amongst the first radio amateurs to receive slow scan analogue pictures (it took eight minutes to download one picture !).**

I eventually donated my work to AMSAT UK so that other amateurs could also make use of this form of communication. Now we think nothing of receiving live TV pictures from all corners of the world.

Tony Ferneyhough

