

Entertaining Angels

Forty of us gathered at Highbury Theatre, to refresh at the bar, followed by an excellent Salad Supper which we all enjoyed.

The main action of the play was in the Garden and down by the stream. The plot of the play 'Entertaining Angels' centered around the Vicar's Wife and the continual return (from the greenhouse !) of her recently dead husband (only we and his wife saw him). We had the impression that she had, in fact, murdered him in spite of her liturgical attitude. The plot was complicated by the Vicar having a short romance, with his wife's sister, some thirty years ago which produced a son. The Vicar's wife had only just found out ! The Vicar's wife's daughter acted a



mediator between the two sisters and managed to persuade the new Vicar to stay.

You can see that the plot was complicated - there was some excellent acting.

From my experience I saw the same play three weeks ago at a different theatre - The Grange. It was fascinating to see an entirely different approaches by the two producers. Highbury had a very strong Vicar's Wife. The Grange had a very dominant leading lady with a more involved cast.

Thank you David for organising (for the last time in Office) an excellent evening - enjoyed by all. Thank you again, on behalf of the club, for all the hard work you have done as Chairman of the Social Committee. **John Cheal**

Editor's Notes

Articles and or 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 300 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.



Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: **Brian Spencer**

No.174

April 2013

The Time Has Come The Walrus said, to talk of many things!!

We can't let this last Newsletter of Tony's pass, without a huge thank you for all the flair and enthusiasm he has brought to the job.

Farewell

At the same time, we thank Peter Weston for taking over and look

forward to seeing how it evolves under his editorship. Contact him at pr.weston@btinternet.com **Rod**



Thank you Rod for your kind words. As the Editor I've tried hard to maintain that each issue, of the Newsletter, represented members thoughts through their articles. For me it has been a very interesting journey. There has been so many events well-reported on by very supportive members. This support is the mainstay, and success, of our Club. There have been many gentle changes along the way to strengthen our Club through the articles.

At the time I was asked five years ago to step in as Editor I was a relatively new member feeling very uncertain of whether to accept the position or not. It turned out to be one of my better decisions as it gave me a great insight of how our Club is sustained. There has been so much generous help from so many it would be difficult, and unfair, to pick just one person to say a special thank you. I'd like to think the Newsletter has become an important asset to the Club and is, I am assured, well read by the Members and their Wives.

I'm certain in my own mind that Peter will make an excellent Editor. I'm sure he will soon put his own 'stamp' on what he considers suitable for a club such as ours. I know for certain he has many ideas and brings a different set of talents, and viewpoints, to take the Newsletter to the next stage of it's development. As fellow members please give him your full support.

Future Event organisers/coordinators are gently reminded to ensure that a member is 'nominated' for the write up for their event/activity. Peter would also appreciate photos.

I will continue to be actively involved with some of the many facets of the club to help to ensure it's longevity.

A POTTED HISTORY OF THE 20th CENTURY – PART 2

Following Martin Harrison's First Part talk in last month's March meeting, it was interesting to see whether his second visit to the Club to present his reflections on the latter half of the 20th century, would use a different format for this presentation. However this was not to be, as the programme basically showed one 'event' for each year, with occasionally more than one event.



Martin's choice of events was very varied, as you would expect for a period which covered Europe and other world countries recovering from the effect of war, whilst embracing many major advances in life and all technologies of science, medicine, engineering etc. It was not clear whether the intention was to cover the world events or just the United Kingdom, with the main parts of Europe and the United States of America. Generally the focus was on the United Kingdom events and European events were they had a major impact on the United Kingdom. With this approach many world major happenings were not mentioned. In support of the talk these were the Speaker's choice

which gave an interesting view of 50 years of our lives and outlined, along with the March talk, what a tremendous century it had been.

One aspect that I believe should have been left out of the presentation was the speaker's apparent political bias, in describing some of the United Kingdom events, which was not needed in his talk.

As with his first part of the 'Potted History' there were many more events worth mentioning for every one of the 50 years of the period, than was possible in a 45 minutes presentation. Discussions between Members after the event clearly showed that the talk had prompted memories of Martin Harrison's choice of the particular year's event, and for the many other major happenings in the world which were not mentioned.

Members appeared to enjoy the talk which was entertaining, had good interest, was stimulating and thought provoking and well presented. **Roy Galloway**

Long Walk Rosliston 4th April.

Eleven of us set out from the Bulls Head at Rosliston, well insulated from the biting Easterly Winds, but the weather looked fine, no snow forecast! As we stopped by the Church Dennis advised us; "that the Village is mentioned in the Doomsday Book as Redlauestum, meaning farm of Hrolf", always good to have Historic information to start a walk!



(What happened here ? Was Dennis begging for mercy ? Ed.)

The walk, previously cancelled from last month due to bad weather, took us through part of the National Forest which now covers 200 sq miles of the Midlands. The Forest has been planted with a variety of trees such as; Oak, Ash and Hawthorne. We were directed over a wide variety of styles, some standard, one on a bridge, a very unusual triangular one, one which continued over a ditch on a narrow plank, and one which was very narrow but a gallant gentleman opened a gate for those of us not of a narrow disposition!

The final part of the walk was through Penguin Wood, even though it was cold enough for Penguins we did not spot any, only a very clever model of a bird of prey constructed as a kite to scare away the birds. Finally we arrived back to the Bulls Head for delicious food and a welcome pint. Thanks to Dennis and Rod for their organisation, a very enjoyable walk.

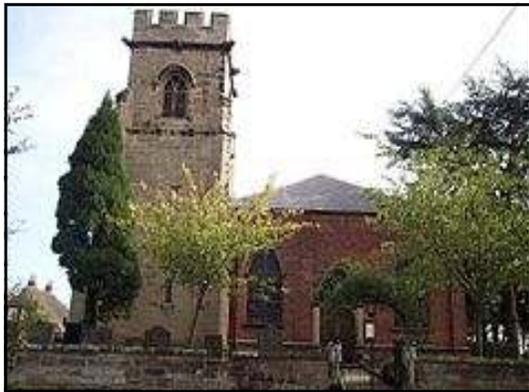
Mike Taylor

Short walk from the Plum Pudding

When we arrived at the venue some of us were beginning to think that the weather 'El Supremo' may be beginning to lose his touch ! With rain in the air and a biting wind non of it seemed to be going his way !

Not our best turn out of numbers to start the walk but many would regret not turning up !! Why should we ever doubt the man who has provided so many dry - and interesting - walks ?? I though I caught a glimpse of a rabbit's foot or was it a cockroach in the matchbox ?? Whatever it is I'm sure he will never share his secret !

Walking underfoot was mainly dry along the towpaths with a reasonable amount of traffic along the canal. We were soon chatting away oblivious the miles walked. Along



the way we passed the historic church of St Nicholas in the village of Mavesyn Ridware which boldly said it had been built in 1240.

Shortly afterwards we paused for a few others to catch up. In the distance someone thought they spied the intrepid trio out of Last of The Summer Wine. It would be unfair to mention names but some 'saddled' one of the three as Compo !!

From a nature point of view it was good to see a swan nesting by the edge of the river Trent and many lambs with

their Mums. With such decimation of livestock across the country because of the harshest Winter for 50 years these views were very refreshing.

As for the local industry it appeared the Armitage Shanks seemed to be flourishing judging by the amount of ceramic ware that was waiting ready for transporting across the globe.

By now all our chills had disappeared and one or two were saying they were now as warm as toast. !! We soon arrived back at the Plum Pudding bedecked in striking colours of Purple and White. Inside we were greeted by the staff and fellow members that had decided not to walk.

Orders were taken and food was quickly and efficiently served. During the meal many more topics surfaced but I didn't fully grasp the chat about a member and pole dancing ! Perhaps someone can enlighten me ??

Rod had his final chance to 'practice' the end of meal thank yous. (All for real next month Rod !!). Everyone was fully appreciative of Roy's efforts which would not be possible without his little helper ! Roy makes it all look so easy to organise but I know, from chatting to him, that several trips out are always required to ensure all the right 'ingredients' for a short walk are in place and that everything runs smoothly. The Short Walks Committee are always looking for support from the members to provide their own walks to supplement the vast range of walks undertaken over the years.

Tony Ferneyhough

Farmers and Cowmen

Brian and Margaret are keen supporters of Sutton Coldfield Musical Society having been members for many years. They organised a trip out for Probus members to the Garrick Theatre. Those who went on the backstage tour will now be very familiar with the venue. SCMC latest show was Oklahoma.

Oklahoma! is the first musical written by the team of composer Richard Rodgers and librettist Oscar Hammerstein II. The musical is based on Lynn Riggs' 1931 play, *Green Grow the Lilacs*. Set in Oklahoma Territory outside the town of Claremore in 1906, it tells the story of cowboy Curly McLain and his romance with farm girl Laurey Williams. A secondary romance concerns cowboy Will Parker and his flirtatious fiancée, Ado Annie.

The original Broadway production opened on March 31, 1943. It was a box-office smash and ran for an unprecedented 2,243 performances, later enjoying award-winning revivals, national tours, foreign productions and an Academy Award-winning 1955 film adaptation. It has long been a popular choice for school and community productions.

The show has enjoyed many revivals over the decades both in the US and the UK.

The show has a main plot with one or two sub-plots. I suspect the majority of us have seen this show several times but, performed well, is ever popular. Maybe most will remember Howard Keel as Curly ?? (He changed his name at the time from Harold !!) It is very 'bouncy' and lively show. Many of the song numbers are now evergreens in our lives. ('Oh what a Beautiful Morning', 'Surrey with the Fringe on Top', 'People will say we're in Love' and so on)

The Company, once again, surprised us with the wealth of talent that is ever-present amongst the members. Justice was done by all key principles and the supporting cast coloured the picture very well. The show generates a feel good factor, many folk were singing or humming on their way out of the Green Room. **Tony Ferneyhough**



Events and Activities from April to August 2013

Club Website: <http://suttonparkprobus.wordpress.com>

Thursday 25th April

Annual General Meeting

Newsletter Report - Peter Weston

Kitchen Rota:

Brian Senior, Mike Terry

Ivor Wesley, Bob Badham

Sunday 28th April

Concert at Sutton Town Hall

Coordinator - John Cheal

Thursday 2nd May

Long Walk led by Graham Jones

Meet at Roy's 9.30 am to car share

Wednesday 8th May

Dublin Information Meeting 10.00 am

Coordinator Jim Bailey

Thursday 9th May

Alrewas Arboretum

Coordinator - John Cheal

Sunday 12th May

Cricket at Edgbaston

40 overs v Sussex

Coordinator: David Rooke

Thursday 16th May

Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Thursday 23rd May

Club General Meeting

Vote of Thanks: Mike Lock

Newsletter Report: John Booth

Kitchen Rota: Jim Bailey

Keith Keeley, Roger Phillips

John Buckland, John Longmore

Thursday 6th June

Long Walk led by Mike Lock

Meet at Roy's 9.30 to car share

Sunday 9th - Tuesday June 13th

Spring Break - Dublin

Coordinator = Jim Bailey

Thursday 20th June

Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Monday 24th June

Gentleshaw Bowls day

Coordinator: Mike Lock

Thursday 27th June

Club General Meeting

Vote of Thanks: John Buckland

Newsletter Report: Ray Clark

Kitchen Rota : John Booth

Selby Betts, Terry Booth

Roy Willson, Alfred Wallwork

Friday 28th June

President's Supper - The Terrace

Coordinators: Harry Medcalf\John Cheal

Monday 1st July

Long Walk

Walk Leader: Brian Spencer

Monday 8th July

Catton Park & Afternoon Tea

Organiser: David Rooke

Thursday 18th July

Short Walk

Walk Leader: Roy Willson

Thursday 25th July

Club General Meeting

Vote of Thanks: Phillip Trowman

Newsletter Report: Bob Badham

Kitchen Rota: TBA

Thursday 1st August

Long Walk led by Barry Gill

Meet at Roy's 9.30am to car share

Sunday 4th August

BBQ

Thursday 8th August

Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Downton Abbey Balances, £133.60 per person, cheques for the May meeting latest please.

Thurston, The Sea Marge Hotel 2014 November 14/15/16 (Friday Sat' Sun) £35.00
Deposits per person June meeting latest please.

I am waiting for the cost of the Irish night, and will update you all asap, but these will also be due for the May meeting too . **Jim Bailey**

Short Walk on Thursday 16th May

Venue: The Bull, Coleshill Road, Furnace End. B46 2LG

Location: About 3 miles north east of Coleshill close to the crossroads of the B4114 and B4098. 15 miles from Sutton.

Directions: Go to Coleshill take the B4114 for 3 miles. The Bull is located just before the crossroads. Car Park is on left hand side.

Lunch: 12.30pm. Two courses for £10

Walk: 10.30am start. About 3½ miles mostly over grassy fields and hard core tracks. If the weather is wet there may be one muddy patch. There are no stiles.

Organiser: Roy Willson

Please ensure suitable footwear and clothes are worn.

Visit to the National Arboretum, Thursday 9th May

Arrive at Car Park approx 10.30 am (A small car park fee).
THIS SHOULD BE A VERY ENJOYABLE AND RELAXING DAY. Try to come.
Money (£6.50) to John Cheal as soon as possible please.

CONCERT AT SUTTON TOWN HALL Sunday 28th April at 7.30 pm
Tickets are £9 each. Payment to John Cheal please.

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 **Peter Weston** 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