

Skittles at Lea Marston

On a dark wet windy night in the middle of February 48 members and their wives fought their way through the rush hour traffic to Lea Marston Hall for an evenings Skittles,



and a very nice supper. It was certainly evening of fun and banter, played out over four tables of 12. Place names were given mixing new members with the old. A quiz was played throughout the evening which helped to break the ice with people you were not too familiar with. Ken Shaw who is a new member and Brian Mallet an old campaigner both finished with 14 points each, a play off ensued with Ken winning 6 points to 5.

Jan Gospel was the ladies winner with a score of 12, as her husband Mike had helped to organised the evening questions were being asked !!!

Team 2 had a score of 106 collectively and all the ladies in the team received their flowers which their husbands had promised them for Valentine's Day.

Team 1 won the quiz with 60 points (I think they were finding the answers on a lap top they had smuggled in) or they watch a lot of Freeview TV plus the adverts.

Hilary Crowley, Kath Parsonage and Pat Ditchfield all drew their own tickets out of the bag for a raffle prize, so the fiddling went on until the end of the evening.

In the absence of our President, Vice President Rod gave a humorous vote of thanks to Mike & Jan Gospel and Jim & Sylvia Bailey for organising the evening, that was so much enjoyed by the members that a request was made by several members for a repeat next year. A lot of hard work had been put in to this event and was very much appreciated by everyone. I did think that all bowlers did well but maybe I'm biased!

Barry Parsonage



Sutton Park Probus Club Newsletter

(Founded 1998)

President: Brian Spencer

No.172

February 2013

New Members



Our President, Brian, introduced the four new members, explaining that this was probably the last time they will be first in the food queue !

(L to R Brian, Ken Shaw, Mike Taylor, Phillip Trowman and Bob Badham)

Pompeii - the nice and the naughty !!

Many of us (and also other members), who went to Sorrento last year will still recall visiting Pompeii and Herculanium. Jack Reedy gave us an entertaining PowerPoint presentation showing us how Pompeii is today.

When passing through the are Mount Vesuvius looks like a monster on the sky-line apparently behaved like one some 2000 years ago when it erupted covering Pompeii with debris. Many folk had left the city beforehand otherwise the casualties would have



been much higher. Those that stayed, many were asphyxiated by the red hot fumes and died almost instantly. Some of the citizens were 'rediscovered' in their final positions under the set lava by using plaster of paris poured into cavities within the lava. Two thirds of the town has been dug out, (Because of wide-spread looting all present day excavation is carried out under special license). Jack showed us some of the fascinating architecture . He assured us that "Up Pompeii" with Frankie Howerd was filmed on site (not the maiden - of course) thus you saw the genuine ruins in the film presentation. We taken around the " houses of ill repute" and saw men of that era showing off their adequate parts (tastefully put John !). We also found Paramus and

Thisbe did not only meet through a hole in the wall !! (Nothing new there then !!).

An inspired vote of thanks was given by Ernest, who explained that he had visited there some 15 time and he thus applauded Jack in his interesting and enjoyable representation.

PS. Jack explained that Mt Vesuvius is due to erupt again at any time - keep your eye on the press !!

John Cheal

This Day in History

- 1594 Henri IV crowned king of France
- 1874 Baseball 1st played in England, at Lord's Cricket Grounds
- 1919 1st public performance of Holst's "Planets"
- 1956 Elvis Presley's releases "Heartbreak Hotel"
- 1981 Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder record "Ebony and Ivory"
- 1992 Tiger Woods, 16, becomes youngest PGA golfer in 35 years

Buck's Fizz and Amble



Thursday dawns wet and dark, not a good day for walking: but miraculously the sun comes out and we are off to the President's house for the ' Bucks Fizz Amble'.

Wood lane proved to be no problem but I could not find the right house, looking for a silver 4 x 4. Must be the right house now cars outside; but no 4 x4!

Apparently car had an argument with some snow and ice and came off worse, no injuries though thankfully. Bucks Fizz and fellowship much enjoyed, but before we knew it time to de-camp for the Plough and Harrow. Enjoyed a pleasant amble through some mud, but not too bad, through Druids Heath Golf Course, up the hill to the Aldridge Cricket



and Hockey Ground and back to the Pub. Met some interesting people on the way, a very nice lady talking about her horses, no problem until someone mentioned Horse Burgers! Also met a group of walkers from Walsall Community who were most pleasant and friendly, this walking lark seems a very sociable pastime.

Back to the Pub for a drink, yes the Beer was £3-75 a pint! But we had had a lovely walk, our President made sure no one was lost, and we then enjoyed a pleasant lunch with plenty of fun and fellowship.

Thanks to Brian and Dorothy for hosting and organising the event, and also special thanks to the 'secret washer uppers'.

Mike Taylor

Intrepid Winter Walkers

It was good to see so many turn out for this excellent walk.
Great to see some of the newer members on this activity.
It seems that Daphne is making sure everyone is present !
(I just love the wide variety of hats too !!)



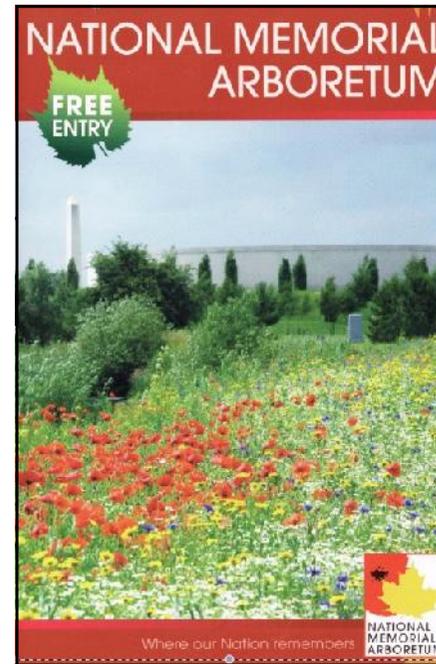
The 12 stiles walk in Abbots Bromley.

Geoff informed us by email that it would be muddy and heavy going and he was absolutely correct. He obviously felt that to tell us that we would encounter double - stiles and a wire fence to be climbed over would be more exciting if we came upon them without warning. There were 19 of us out to prove that Probus walkers are a determined crowd. We walked through the mud, strode through a sheep dip and encountered cows barring our path -.WE SENT FOR GEOFF - Our leader brandished his walking stick, yelled at animals, jumped up and down and the heifers moved away.

It was a very pleasant walk through the Staffordshire countryside for the weather was kind to us and the company of like minded individuals always adds to the pleasure of walking. At this time of year a pub meal is part of the walk and The Goats Head is an excellent inn. The steak and kidney pie is unmissable and highly recommended.

Our thanks to Sheila and Geoff for their organisation. **Brian Mallett**

Visit to the National Arboretum, Thursday 9th May



We are proposing to visit the N.M.A., making our own way there.

The programme is as follows:

Arrive at Car Park approx 10.30 am
Short walk to Chapel to arrive at the latest 10.55 am (the service lasts about 15 minutes and includes both The Last Post and Reveille - a very moving experience!)

Leave the Chapel at 11.20 onto the adjacent patio on which we will have coffee/tea..

We then travel by Land Train, for approx one hour, with a commentary allowing you to decide on the project(s) you wish to visit after lunch.

At approx 1.00. pm we can have lunch (or bring a picnic) in as very pleasant atmosphere.

After lunch we suggest you visit the places which are of interest for you.

The cost is £6.50 which covers coffee and your train journey. Entrance is free but there is a small car parking charge.

THIS SHOULD BE A VERY ENJOYABLE AND RELAXING DAY. Try to come. Money (£6.50) to John Cheal as soon as possible please

**SUTTON COLDFIELD VESEY
ROTARY CLUB**

Presents a

CHARITY CONCERT

Featuring

GRESLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

(Musical Director - Karl Harper)
Their reputation covers many regions of the UK and as far afield as Europe and United States of America

and

BIRMINGHAM SCHOOLS BRASS BAND

(Musical Director - Martin Orgill)
Selected from hundreds of bands to appear at the Royal Albert Hall in 2012 in the 'Music For Youth Festival'

AT

SUTTON COLDFIELD TOWN HALL

CN

SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2013 at 7.30PM

Tickets £10.00 each Concessions £9.00 each (OAP's and U16's)

CONCERT AT SUTTON TOWN HALL Sunday 28th April at 7.30 pm

Last year some 45 of us went to Sutton Town Hall, and thoroughly enjoyed a musical Evening.

A similar concert has been arranged (with different content) and includes the Birmingham Schools Brass Band and The Gresley Male Voice Choir.

The Birmingham Schools Brass Band has won many prestigious awards - appearing at The Royal Albert Hall last year.

Tickets are £9 each. Payment to John Cheal please.

Events and Activities from February to June 2013

Thursday 28th February
A Potted History of the 20th Century
(Part 1) Martin Harrison

Vote of Thanks: John Booth
Newsletter Report: Neil Crabb

Kitchen Rota: Alf Dineen
Mike Gospel, Ian Scholes
David Wallis, Peter Weston

Monday 11th March
Long Walk led by Dennis Rose
Direct or meet at Roy's 9.00 am

Thursday 14th March
Garrick Theatre Backstage Tour
Coordinator - David Rooke

Thursday 21st March
Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Thursday 28th March
A Potted History of the 20th Century
(Part 2) Martin Harrison
Vote of Thanks: Alf Dineen
Newsletter Report: Roy Galloway

Kitchen Rota: Ray Clark
Neil Crabb, Tim Daly
Brian Mallett, John Carrington

Thursday 4th April
Long Walk led by Rod Crowley
Direct or meet at Roy's at 9.30 am

Thursday 11th April
Short walk led by Roy Willson
Thursday 18th April
Highbury Theatre and Buffet
Coordinator - David Rooke

Thursday 25th April
Annual General Meeting
Newsletter Report - Peter Weston

Kitchen Rota: Roy Galloway
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

Thursday 9th May
Alrewas Arboretum
Coordinator - John Cheal

Sunday 12th May
Cricket at Edgbaston
40 overs v Sussex

Thursday 16th May
Short Walk led by Roy Willson

Thursday 23rd May
Club General Meeting
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

Thursday 27th June
Club General Meeting

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

June - date to be arranged
Gentleshaw Bowls Day
Coordinator: Mike Lock

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

Club Infrastructure

Last month a request was made for members to consider taking up the posts of Newsletter Editor and Club Treasurer. Both these posts are most rewarding and good method of helping to maintain the excellent infrastructure of our well organised club. Please review your thoughts about these posts to help maintain Sutton Park Probus Club to the standard we all have grown to accept. Neither post is complex and full support will be given (if required) to the incoming officers.

Dublin

It would be appreciated that members travelling to Ireland pay outstanding monies as soon as possible.

£458.00 for the Probus members travelling on the coach (per couple).

£818.00 for the Probus members travelling by flying (per couple).

Thank you - Jim Bailey.

Invitation to The Ladies of Sutton Park Probus Club

President Brian invites you to come to Afternoon Tea with Cakes at Blackwood Methodist Church Hall, Blackwood Road Streetly on Friday March 8th 2013 from 2 pm until 4pm. Do come along for a cuppa, a nice slice of home made cake, and a convivial chat with all The Ladies from Sutton Park Probus Club

RSVP briangspencer@btinternet.com 0121-353-2071



Short Walk 21st March

Date: Thursday 21st March

Venue: The Plough at Huddlesford WS123 8PY

Location: The Plough is about 10 miles from Sutton Coldfield and 2 miles East of Lichfield. Take the A38 towards Lichfield. At the large island just before Lichfield turn right - still on A38. After 2 miles take a slip road towards Lichfield Industrial Estate. At the bottom of the slip road turn right and follow signs for Huddlesford and the Plough.

Lunch: £10.

Times: Walk start at 10.30 am and Lunch at 12.30.

Amble: About 2.75 miles on country lanes and a canal towpath. There are no stiles.

Organiser: Roy Willson

Please ensure suitable footwear and clothes are worn.