



Sutton Park Probus Club

(Founded 1998)

President: Fred Ditchfield

Monthly Newsletter

No.204 January 2016



General Meeting

GARDENING MISHAPS—NOVEMBER 26th



Our speaker team for November was a husband and wife duo Graham and Judy White who hail from Uttoxeter, where their large resurrected garden has taken shape over the past seven years. It is now a tourist attraction for the locals, and helps to raise funds for Marie Curie Charities among others. After an introductory plug for his other available talks, Graham treated us to a variety of images from his own and other folks' memoirs of things that go wrong when attempting to 'cultivate nature'. He opined that folk he talked to seem to enjoy his failures rather than his successes! Floods, gales, wild life, pests and diseases, as we all are aware if we tend our own gardens, are the bane of many a concerted physical effort. He went on to list the ten most hazardous garden tools or implements which appear in a publication from ROSPA (Royal Society for the prevention of Accidents), from the simple sticks and canes, to the technical wizardry of sit-on mowers, all provided the Speaker with a wealth of opportunities to illustrate their misuse. **Report - Brian Spencer**

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH:

Even if you're on the right track you'll get run over if you just sit there!
Will Rogers

MAKING YOUR APOLOGIES

A. If you are unable to attend a General Meeting please advise **Allan Powers** by the **Sunday** before that General Meeting. **B.** 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. **C.** If you are unable to carry out the Vote of Thanks or write the Newsletter Report please get in touch with **Dale Lyons**, well before that General Meeting. The **absolute** deadline for reports & news is the **Saturday before** the next monthly meeting.

Events and Activities to March 2016

N.B. ALWAYS CHECK THE BOARDS FOR MORE
EVENT DETAILS OR SEE THE
ORGANISERS

Thursday 28th January
Club General Meeting
Speaker: David Jones
'Jewels of Northern Italy'
Newsletter Report—Peter Terleski
Vote of Thanks—Paul Beaumont

Kitchen Rota: Keith Keeley,
Bryan Nicholas, Fred Nightingale,
Barry Parsonage, David Roy

NB. change of venue

Thursday 4th February
Long Walk & Pub lunch
Organiser— Mike Taylor
Shugborough—Cannock Chase

Thursday 18th February
Short Walk & Bucks Fizz
Organisers— John Carrington &
Brian Spencer

Thursday 26th February
Club General Meeting
'The Aircraft Carriers History'
Speaker—Arthur Aston
Newsletter Report - Paul Beaumont
Vote of Thanks— David Wallis

Kitchen Rota: Barry Gill, Mike
Haynes, Brian Spencer,
Peter Terleski, Phil Troman

Thursday 3rd March
Long Walk
Organiser - Geoff Sylvester

Friday 4th March
Skittles Evening -Jim Bailey &
Mike Gospel

Saturday 12th March
Spring Fine Dining—Harry Medcalf
Walmley Golf Club

Thursday 17th March
Short Walk—TBC

Thursday 24th March
Club General Meeting
Speaker - Ned Williams
'Boys and their Toys'
Newsletter Report - Brian Nicholas
Vote of Thanks - Richard Humphrey

Kitchen Rota: Paul Beaumont,
Tim Daly, Mike Lock, Ivor Wesley
Ernest Williams

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*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.*

EVENTS DETAIL

BUCKS FIZZ WALK. Thursday February 18th 2015

Bucks Fizz : 10.00 a.m. at John and Maggie Carrington, 40 Grosvenor Close, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield B75 6RP. Walk: 11.00 am at Four Oaks Gate of Sutton Park. The walk will be approx. 75 minutes to Bracebridge Pool and back. Lunch: 12.15-12.30 at The Four Oaks Pub, Belwell Lane, Sutton Coldfield B74 4TR. Parking at pub £2.00 for up to three hours refundable from your meal bill or park at Four Oaks Sutton Park Entrance to avoid having to pay at the pub. Meal: see January Meeting Sheet. Starter and Main course for about £11.00 puddings £3.00 extra. **PLEASE DO NOT TURN UP FOR A MEAL AT THE PUB IF YOU HAVE NOT BOOKED IT ON THE SHEET AT THE JANUARY MEETING!** Organiser - Brian Spencer

EASTBOURNE TRIP Monday 5th –Friday 9th SEPTEMBER

JIM BAILEY REQUIRES A £30 DEPOSIT FOR INTERESTED PARTIES AT YOUR EARLIEST CONVENIENCE i.e. AT THE JANUARY MEETING - CHEQUES MADE OUT TO 'SPPC'

ROYAL SUTTON COLDFIELD AND NORTH BIRMINGHAM BRANCH

of PARKINSONS UK presents a **MUSICAL EVENING** featuring **Eclipse**

A duo - keyboard & flautist

14th May 2016 at 7.00 p.m.

United Reform Church Sutton Coldfield B73 6AA

Tickets £8.00 / £5.00 concessions incl. light refreshment.

from John Carrington

HAPPY WANDERERS!

MIKE'S PENNS HALL
PLODDERS - PREPPED
FOR THE SECOND HALF
OF THE NEWHALL
JOLLY!



EVENT REPORTS

CLAVERDON CIRCULAR WALK. MONDAY 7th DECEMBER



“The First Day of Christmas my true love sent to me”, a verse for the ten walkers who set out from The Crown Inn for a 6.5 circular walk round ‘Clover Hill’, (old English for Claverdon); and yes there was a Pear tree in the pub orchard car park and to complete the verse we also spied a partridge! The earlier overcast and sometimes drizzly conditions soon cleared with the sun beaming through the thinning cloud at the start. As Clover Hill is 400 feet above sea level and surrounded by low lying ground the start was inevitably downhill. The walk

circumscribed its way across fields, down lanes, along an old drovers’ way, tracking canals and negotiating coppices, with a steep ascent to the Crown Inn for a deserved and thoroughly enjoyed home-fayre lunch. As the tenth verse goes, the walk ended with “10 Lords (and ladies) a’leaping” in recognition of a memorable walk, impeccably organised by John Vickers. **Report - Mike Haynes**

GEORGE HOTEL LICHFIELD - LUNCH – 14TH JANUARY

On a wonderful sunny, cold winter’s day, 40 of us gathered at the George Hotel for lunch. It was especially nice to see Fred Nightingale in view of his sad loss of Val who was well remembered at this event. It had been suggested that we arrive between 12-30 and 1-15, but the first Probians arrived at 11-45 – they were probably thirsty! The majority however were in place by 12.30 because we all needed a chat, being so long since we had last met. Probus is such a wonderful organisation,. The three course lunch carvery was very good, the service excellent and the fellowship companionable as always. Thanks were expressed by the President to Harry for organising the event at short notice. He also acknowledged Val’s sad passing and Fred’s brave attendance. **Report – Mike Taylor**

LONG WALK - NEWHALL VALLEY - 21st JANUARY

The original plan was to walk the Lickey Hills but advice from the Park Rangers stated that the paths were not only muddy but waterlogged! Undeterred, Mike and Kate Haynes quickly compiled the ideal Winter scenario based on Newhall Valley – local, good foot paths and interesting scenery. Meeting up on a crisp, dry morning Members were counted and sweets dispersed. We tracked the Plants Brook, down the valley, via Penns Hall to the Lakes before returning. Many panting Joggers overtook us fulfilling their January pledge but we were left wondering why you never see one with a smile on their face. Lunch was taken at the Hotel where President Fred popped into join us, which was much appreciated. Graham Jones gave a whimsical vote of thanks to Mike and Kate for all their hard work and organisation, particularly at such short notice. **Report - David Rooke Photo - Kate Haynes**