



Pro-Biz



Web site - <http://www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk>

Issue No 219 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

April 2017

"LIVING OUR VALUES EVERY DAY"...

...that is the watchword of the final speaker during Chairman Hywel Thomas's term of office. Making a welcome return at the Club's February Meeting was the **Chairman of Kingston Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Sian Bates**. Her charisma and commitment shone out from every word as she described how the Trust was realising its mission of *"working together to deliver exceptional, compassionate care - each and every time"*.

Working together, Sian explained, entails sharing expertise and best practice with other hospitals, GP surgeries and community health and care services right across South West London, and as the capital's largest single site District General Hospital, Kingston is well to the fore. Employing over 3,000 staff members, with an annual turnover of £225 million in 2015– 16, Kingston treated 113,500 people in A & E, delivered nearly 6,000 babies, admitted 55,060 patents for treatment and held 388,747 outpatient appointments. Sian was also able to point to a significant number of further achievements which include excellent staff survey results with one of the country's highest response rates; the opening of a new Clinical Decisions Unit and the first fully dementia-friendly ward; the accolade of best in London for 62-day cancer waits and a volunteer service shortlisted for an HSI award and rated an area of outstanding practice by the CQC. Looking forward, Sian highlighted the priorities as continuing collaboration with other South West London Trusts, engagement with community and primary care to ensure that more patients are cared for in the most appropriate place, ongoing work on dementia and the transformation of more elderly care wards, and a focus on recruitment to reduce vacancies to a minimum.

Sian having expertly handled a wide-ranging series of questions, John Holliday's vote of thanks - including some reflections on the changes since his own days in NHS administration - evoked an enthusiastic response from members. The Chairman closed proceedings by commending Speakers' Secretary, Peter Turner on maintaining such a consistently high standard of talks.

(Jim Woodford)



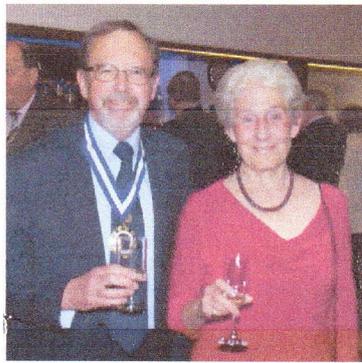
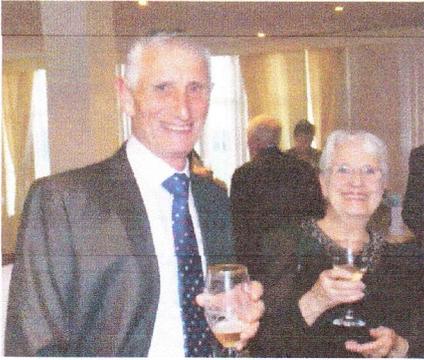
PROBUS DINNER

Instead of the usual Dinner and Dance at Imber Court, the Club, following a referral to the membership, held a Dinner on the 31 March. The event was highlighted with Brian Greenan, Past President of the London Society of Toastmasters as guest 'After-Dinner Speaker', who regaled the assembled company with experiences of officiating at a wide range of events which included Royalty, 'A-List' celebrities, sporting events, pop stars and even past President of the United States of America – Bill Clinton! The evening went with a swing and even a slight hiccup with the projection equipment did not complicate matters and a good time was had by all. Some photos of the evening are overleaf.

OBITUARY

It is with sincere regret that we have to report the death of member Roy Webster who died unexpectedly in March, whilst on holiday with June at their apartment in the south of France. Roy was introduced to the Club by Hugh Wood in 1996 and was an active supporter of Club activities. Our condolences go to June and their family. Roy will be sadly missed.





WALK FROM THE SPORTSMAN, MOGADOR 4th APRIL

A murky Tuesday morning saw us all set off for The Sportsman pub in Mogador (sounds like something out of Harry Potter or Lord of the Rings). This is an area that seems cut off from normal traffic, as the M25 slices right through and leaves it as a bit of an oasis. The area is definitely a dog-walkers paradise, as we all arrived before 10.00 am to find the car park fairly full of 4x4's complete with dog screens in the back. For once the walkers -10, set off dead on time, across the open fields of Banstead Common. No Finn this time as his guardian, Eileen, was away in America. We did have a substitute in the form of Pepper, who was like a frustrated sheep dog, as he kept running backwards and forwards through the group and seemed to cover ten times the distance that the walkers did. Banstead Common is on a bit of a plateau, quite high up near Reigate Hill. As long as you don't go downhill at any time all works fine, but after a slight discussion between the walk leader and his wife (who just happens to hold walk instruction details) we went a little off piste and ended up in the back end of the common somewhere. Luckily Mike Spraggs had a compass on his phone, all very modern, so after a fairly lengthy detour we found ourselves almost back at the beginning. Not a great deal of time was lost, we just managed to see a bit more of our beautiful springtime. Although we had only just cleared winter, the walk was fairly dry with just the odd muddy patch to contend with. We were assured by Sue Spraggs that Pepper is not too keen on mud and would avoid it at all costs. Sure enough, as soon as Pepper spotted a little puddle in the middle of the mud-patch he was off straight for it for a quick lap up, very similar to Finn's mode of operation. The walk progressed past Banstead Golf Course, which seemed to be ringed by quite a few Coal Tax posts. These at one time ringed the whole of London, but why there are so many in such a small area is a bit of a mystery, perhaps they got re-located when the M25 was built. We then progressed through the woodlands to the bridge over the M25, stopping to admire the traffic and get our full intake of nitrous oxide. This took us on to Colley Hill, which gives you a view over Surrey to rival Box Hill, with the added advantage of a herd of Belted Galloway cattle which graze freely on the hillside. They were obviously feeling a little shy that day, as they had hidden themselves away in the woods somewhere, leaving their obvious presence on the ground for us to negotiate. It was then back across another bridge passing the famous water tower, a grand 1904 folly, returning to The Sportsman through the bluebell woods, which were just beginning to break. We made it a mere 20 minutes late to meet our 13 diners who were already well ensconced in the rather nice restaurant on the side of the pub. If you do trust your sat-nav it is well worth a trip over to The Sportsman, it is a really nice country pub serving excellent food, tucked away in a little bit of old England.

(Keith McArthur)

FUTURE EVENTS:

Sun 23/27 April H.L.P.C. Holiday to North Devon

Tue 2 May Pub Lunch/Walk – The Grantley Arms, Womersley, Surrey- Organiser - Keith McArthur

Thu 11 May Visit to Syon House, Isleworth. Organiser - Keith McArthur

Tue 6 May Club Luncheon – Speaker – Mr Bruce Dawson-Moray ‘Security – The Future’