



Pro-Biz



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

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"FOLK REMEDIES, PURGES AND EMETICS...."

... a problematic subject for a sweltering summer's day, after the customary ample Probian lunch was the view of Chairman Keith McArthur presiding at the Club's June Luncheon. Happily, our guest speaker, **distinguished researcher and history lecturer Dr. Judy Hill** gave a good leavening of humour to her treatment of The Victorian Pharmacy - kill or cure. She explained that at the start of Queen Victoria's reign the public had been in the habit of self-medicating, partly because of the scarcity of public health provision, but principally because people did not have the funds to pay the doctor or apothecary. It was only at the end of the 19th century that real advances were made in the understanding of the causes of illnesses and their treatment and management and, importantly the advent of antiseptics and anaesthetics. Dr. Hill went on to examine developments in the provision of healthcare from folk remedies, purges and emetics to more scientific methods, allied to the increasing influence of the apothecary and pharmacist and the growth of proprietary medicines, with particular reference to the contributions of Thomas Holloway and Jesse Boot. This was a time when the country was faced with rapid and unregulated urban expansion leading to severe overcrowding that left poorer city-dwellers especially vulnerable to infections and diseases. Slowly there was recognition of the close correlation between poverty and sickness. Conditions improved by the end of the century due to advances in medicine coupled with provision of an efficient sewage system and clean water.



After some thought-provoking questions, Howard Martin proposed a vote of thanks, telling Dr. Hill how much his father Fred, formerly a prominent and greatly respected pharmacist, would have enjoyed her talk. Members set out for home, doubtless resolving to 'keep on taking the tablets'.

(Jim Woodford)

2017 BARBEQUE - 27 JUNE

The weather was with us once again – at the start - for the setting of the Tamesis Club on the Thames for the Club's third Barbeque. Showers had been forecast, so it was decided, come-what-may, that we would eat indoors this year. With the stalwarts from previous years showing their expertise and much enthusiasm, the event ran extremely smoothly. The beef burgers, sausages and burger buns were again purchased from local traders, as were the selection of desserts with the accompanying salads and other cold items being prepared by some of the ladies. The team started at 10am by getting the barbeques lit and the cooks Ray, Keith M, Malcolm and Howard began cooking for the 93+ expected members, Ladies Probus members and friends. Whilst the ladies toiled in the kitchen with their preparatory work, the men carried on outside with a weather-eye on the skies. As it turned out just as the meat had been cooked and taken inside, the heavens opened. Fortunately there was enough room for all to enjoy lunch with seconds offered. Desserts had been laid out inside and again 'seconds' were offered until all the plates were emptied, when tea or coffee was also served. Naturally the bar was well supported and we were promptly served by two members from the Tamesis club. Our thanks go to all the volunteers who worked so hard, to Tamesis club for their hospitality and especially to Chris Pollard for arranging the use of the facilities of the Club and also to the Commodore who was able to join us. It was a wonderful social event.



Photos: Hywel Thomas and Bill Rawcliffe

WALK TO THE BOUNTY, COOKHAM. 4th July

Fourteen eager walkers met up at the NT car park just outside Cookham, and had a short wait for Ian and Vera Macrae as they had followed their sat-nav and missed out on the flyer details, which most of you will remember contained two destinations. Unfortunately, they ended up at Bourne End, north of the river, while the rest of us were on the south bank. No matter, a quick phone call sorted things out. We had Finn and Pepper with us again, thereby making easy copy for this report. We set off a little late with a stroll up on to the ridge above the Thames, navigating through a radar gate. Not quite sure what these gates are meant to achieve, as they have a large padlock which can be operated by a fob, but you can open the gates as normal. There are several of these radar gates around the Cookham area, very modern but to what purpose is unclear. A slow walk up the ridge passed us through Winter Hill golf course, where we picked our way gingerly across various fairways making sure we didn't upset the golfers too much. Finn and Pepper were in doggie heaven as they made lots of new friends, this being a very popular dog walking area. A panoramic view welcomed us when we reached the top of the ridge, as you can see from the attached photo. From then on it was downhill all the way to Cookmarsh, across a very handy wooden causeway and down to the Thames, where both dogs decided it was warm enough to take the plunge. A short stroll along the towpath took us to The Bounty pub, where we beat the diners by a good 20 minutes. Our usual contingent of diners had cried off this time as I suspect they didn't fancy the trip across the river in a small ferry. Only Phil and Pat Shepherd ventured across, and it certainly wasn't very easy for Pat to get in and out of the boat. The Bounty is definitely worth a look if you are down that way, and it is quite a quirky pub to say the least. We were invaded by a contingent of working folk from a local Canadian rum company, who were all dressed up for US Independence Day. It was unclear why they should be celebrating the event, as this is their own 150th anniversary. After lunch the walkers were treated to another mile and a bit along the towpath as there is no road access to The Bounty while Phil and Pat had to make their aquatic escape back to their car on the north bank.

(Keith McArthur)



FUTURE EVENTS:

- Tuesday 1 Aug:** Pub Lunch & Walk. The White Hart, Wood Street Village, Guildford.
Organiser – Keith McArthur
- Tuesday 15 Aug:** Club Luncheon – Speaker:- Mrs Lesley Ronaldson – Real Tennis