



# Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 227 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

December 2017



*Merry Christmas!*  
*to all Probus Members*

## TOP FLIGHT TALK BY ACE AVIATOR

18,000 hours and 40-plus years of flying were expertly telescoped into an enthralling and extended package charismatically delivered by the dashing **Captain Lorimer Burn**, introduced as our November Speaker by Chairman Keith McArthur at the Club's 534<sup>th</sup> Luncheon Meeting. Lorimer, a career pilot, retired since 2006, first flew helicopters for the Royal Navy, from the decks of frigates and destroyers. He moved on to a 9-year spell with British Airways Helicopters shuttling to and from the North Sea oil rigs. He finally joined British Midland (BMI) flying fixed wing aircraft out of Heathrow around the UK and Europe. From his portfolio of 10 presentations Lorimer gave us **Stories from a Career in Flying** featuring a quartet of contrasting experiences. First up was a recall of his operations off Iceland during the 1970s Cod Wars, tasked with preventing, in his Wasp helicopter, the Icelandic gunboats from cutting the trawlers' lines to their nets, giving rise to many action-packed moments. Next we were shown a dramatic video of landing trials in gale force conditions for the Royal Navy Lynx helicopter - "All in the day's work" according to Lorimer. The third account concerned flying the S61 and Chinook helicopters from Aberdeen to the North Sea oil rigs, with particular emphasis on the requirement for all personnel to undergo ditching training prior to flying. Lorimer's final story involved the accidental flight in an Airbus A320 into a cataclysmic thunderstorm, his memories of the storm's extreme violence and the shaking and vibrating of the aeroplane being absolutely hair-raising. He also described the 'over-the-top' reaction of an exceptionally nervous passenger who was highly unlikely to fly ever again!

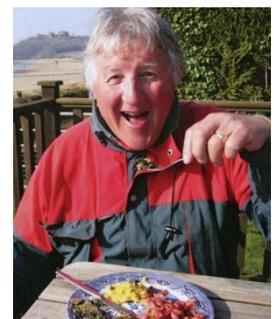


Questions taken, the ovation which greeted aeronautical engineer Chris Pollard's vote of thanks was a fitting acknowledgement of this rousing finale to a top-calibre 2017 speaker programme, once again masterminded by the indefatigable Peter Turner.

*(Jim Woodford)*

## COLIN DAVIES - 1 March 1939 – 5 November 2017

It was with regret that we had to announce Colin's death in last month's Pro-Biz. His funeral took place on Wednesday 22 November at St Mary with St Alban Church in Teddington. The attendance was amazing, with over 300 mourners attending including a strong representation from the Club. As Christobel had asked for people to come dressed with a splash of colour they did not disappoint. Colin will be sorely missed by all who knew him and our condolences go to Christobel, Bronwen, Benjamin and other members of the family.



## **WALK AROUND HAMPTON, HANWORTH, & KEMPTON - 5<sup>th</sup> December**

You couldn't get a more local walk than this, as we set off from Sainsbury's car park in Hampton passing the burnt out shell of The Hampton Pub, our original intended venue for lunch. Thirteen intrepid explorers, plus Finn the dog, were off through the labyrinth of the housing development at Hampton North and on to the open grasslands of Hampton Common and Buckingham Field. Various factoids were delivered about the development of Hampton from market gardens and greenhouses to the present day residential buildings. We heard that Eileen, being a local girl, had worked in the original greenhouses in the production of chrysanthemums and cucumbers. Tales of Her Majesty the Queen opening one of the maisonettes in the early 80's were related and it turned out that both Denzil and Margaret McArthur were in attendance on that day. The walk then took us across Oak Avenue and into the Nature Reserve close to the stables, where a monument to the market gardens still stands in the shape of a brick chimney as the greenhouses in those days were heated by coal. It was then on to the open ground at the back of Hanworth where we then proceeded to pass both St Richards School and Linden Bennet School, with an interlude through the blocks of flats in Hanworth. The track which passes Linden Bennet leads on to the two Kempton reservoirs, east and west. The east reservoir is now a nature reserve, and as you have to be a member to enter we skirted along the edge until we came out into Hatherop Park. Somewhere along this muddy and wet path Finn managed to get his flat snout into a puddle as he is rather partial to muddy water, changing his face from golden brown to a big black spot. From there it was past the playground in Hatherop Park, a quick skirt round Oldfield Road, and on to Gander Green where we realised we had lost Denzil, Eileen and Finn, having craftily ducked down an alley to catch the 111 bus down Station Road to the Jolly Coopers. The walking group arrived at the pub meeting 12 diners already there and were treated to an excellent lunch with superb service from Nick and Jane, the proprietors. The restaurant at the pub, Squiffy's, does excellent food, and as a local venue comes highly recommended.

*(Keith McArthur)*



### **FUTURE EVENTS:**

**Tue 2 Jan:** Pub Lunch/Walk – The Hare & Hounds, Claygate. Organiser - Keith McArthur

**Tue 16 Jan:** Club Luncheon - Speaker – Prof. Frank Kelly (Kings College London) - Environmental Health