



Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 228 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

January 2018

2018
Happy New Year!

PROBUS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Members gathered as usual to enjoy a pre-lunch drink and chat with colleagues. However, being the Christmas meeting, there was much scurrying and hurrying as members exchanged cards left right and centre. Again being Christmas, members enjoyed a three course seasonal lunch at the normal cost, the additional expense being met by Club funds. We did not have a guest speaker for this lunch, but the time was amply filled by members - this time – with contributions from Chairman Keith McArthur, Brian Donaldson, Denzil Isaaks and David Auger. In addition, the Chairman presented Christmas gratuities to the catering and bar staff and thanked them for looking after us throughout the past year. We were then very professionally entertained again by our Caterer, Sarah Burley, who sang a number of standards plus Christmas Carols, to the delight of the assembled members.



(Sarah Burley)

The Chairman finished by wishing all members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Dinner at Imber Court – 10 March 2018

Flyers are out today for the Dinner on Saturday 10 March with entertainment by 'Vamp 'til Ready'. The evening promises to be very entertaining, as some of the residents of Hampton have had the delight of watching this Group before. You are cordially invited to this social evening.

WALK FROM HARE & HOUNDS, CLAYGATE - 2ND JANUARY

Only 6 brave souls turned out for our first walk of 2018, on a particularly dreadful wet and windy day. Even our old friend Finn decided to stay in the dry, can't blame him really, as his nice woolly coat has been clipped almost to the skin. As you can see from the photo our 6 walkers were fully kitted out in their oilies, with umbrellas at the ready. The usual host of factoids were handed out, with a brief history of Claygate itself, and as the name implies, it was a major clay pit for a brick works to supply London. There are the famous Claygate fireplaces which abound in the area, mainly built around the turn of the 20th century. With the rain coming down steadily we were greeted with extremely flooded and muddy paths, most of which were also bridleways which was unfortunate for us as they were, of course, churned up all the more. With a lot of slipping and sliding we crossed the A3 from Claygate to Chessington, where the going got particularly tough as the hill was a proper quagmire. It was then up that hill, past Chessington World of Adventure on our left, and into the woods where there was a large 'Go Ape' area which consisted of zip lines strung between the trees. A great place to take the grandchildren (spring and summer only). From this hillside we could see across the valley towards Claygate, where a large tower from a Victorian pile (Ruxley Towers) came into view. Originally built by Lord Foley in the 19th century, a later occupant was Ronnie Wood. It is now split into apartments, and part of a large gated estate. From here it was downhill all the way through the woodland, slipping and sliding, until we reached the edge of a bridge to again cross over the A3 back into Claygate. We passed one of the coal tax posts originally installed in the 18th century when the Government of the day was taxing anything that moved, not much change there then. Eventually we made it back to the pub, 10 minutes early for a change. The rain had stopped, and with a quick change we were soon seated, together with a further 10 Probus members, for excellent lunch.

(Keith McArthur)



FUTURE EVENTS:

- Tue 6 Feb:** Pub Lunch/Walk - The Shy Horse, Chessington. Organiser Keith McArthur
- Tue 20 Feb:** Club Luncheon - Speaker – Mrs Fiona Auty. National Physical Laboratory - Present and Future
- Wed 21:** Theatre Visit – Theatre Royal Drury Lane – 42nd Street.