



Pro-Biz



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

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News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

April 2018

THE CHEESEMONGER'S TALE

John Pearson, our March lunch speaker, is a food technologist by training and a cheese aficionado by inclination. Joining the Bread, Wine and Cheese department of M&S in the Seventies, he found himself in food heaven, particularly when given an all expenses paid opportunity to find out in Paris why the French were able to make crusty bread. He passed over any extra-curricular experiences he might have had, but the use of razor blades to cut the baguettes clearly made an impression. It soon became clear that his experiences in the world of cheese have become an abiding passion which he brings to his talks. He spoke with enthusiasm, skill and humour. It was at this point that The Millers Tale of Chaucer came to mind. One of the characters in the tale takes to his bed with "bread, cheese and a jug of wine" to last the day whilst he plots to trick his landlord - but no more of that in a respectable publication. John is a well known judge in the world of cheese competitions and he gave Probus members an insight into that world. Members dutifully lined up to take three samples of cheddar to their table with strict orders not to eat the cheese until told. Tasting began and members became quite lyrical in their descriptive language of their reactions: "soft" "hard" "salty" "gritty". From this exercise we learned that there is Cheddar and Cheddar, that Canadians do not eat Canadian Cheddar although it has a world-wide reputation as a cooking cheese. Cheddar is certainly not Mousetrap Blue. Members were able to ask a number of questions and John answered them with humour and knowledge. He even offered recipe advice to our gourmet Secretary that Gruyere cheese was best for Cheese on Toast. Not good news for Brexiteers in the audience and likely to add to Nick's shopping bill.



Hywel Thomas gave John a well earned vote of thanks and did not even mention Caerphilly. Missed a trick there, Boyo. Well done, John, and thanks. "Blessed are the Cheesemakers"

(Chris Oprey)

FRED MARTIN 1915-2018

Fred joined the Club as an Honorary Member in August 2000, but it was as Chairman of Teddington & Hampton Rotary Club's Vocational Committee that Fred laid the foundations of and set up our own Probus Club, which started with around 15 members. Born in Colchester in 1915, Fred had an older sister and younger brother. At the age of 16 Fred left the Central School (a forerunner of today's Secondary Moderns) to take up the study of pharmacy. He qualified from Chelsea Polytechnic as a member of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society just as World War II broke out. He saw service in France, landing on D-Day+1 and Egypt with the Royal Corps of Signals and was demobbed in 1946. In an address to Rotary, Fred reflected on his career "Looking back on 50 years in pharmacy, 25 as a proprietor, I have found that the mystique surrounding medicine has been replaced by more understanding between doctor and patient". Fred married Peggy in 1942 and she passed away in 2000 just two years short of their Diamond Wedding Anniversary. Travel was always one of Fred's great interests and apart from forays into Europe he also visited America, Canada, the Far East and Africa. He had very catholic tastes in music, enjoyed golf and a game of bowls. Fred was amazed at the extent to which our Probus Club developed and flourished and put it down to innovative and dedicated Committee work, underpinned by a supportive membership. He relished the eclectic mix of members and the interesting and consistently excellent speaker programme. Fred's Funeral at Hanworth crematorium on Thursday 29th March was well attended by Probus members. Our sincere condolences go to Howard, Robin and their families.



DIAMOND WEDDING

We are pleased to announce that Past Chairman Tony Cooke and wife Jill celebrated their Diamond Wedding in March with a family gathering. They also received a congratulatory card from H.M. The Queen. May they enjoy many more happy years together.



APRIL PUB LUNCH WALK

BLACK PARK COUNTRY PARK at Iver Heath in Buckinghamshire provided an interesting venue for the Plodders' latest walk with over 600 acres of heathland and woodland to explore. Twelve fit and healthy looking plodders met in the car park and set off on the "Black Park Habitat Trail" hoping to discover some interesting and exciting wildlife such as the Roesels Bush cricket, Nightjars or some snakes and lizards that are apparently abundant within the park. Alas the only wildlife seen were our own four legged companions Pepper and Finn who were in their element in the mud and mire, made worse by the recent heavy rain. The walk was through pine tree avenues and over heathland and passed a "Go Ape" activity centre for children that included a construction of climbing rigging and zip wires between the trees. It took some persuading to prevent Denzil and Martin from trying it out. The walk concluded with a stroll around an enormous lake and back to the car park. The total distance of the walk was three miles exactly. We then dispensed with our muddy boots, climbed into our cars and joined our ten Probus friends at the Black Horse pub for an enjoyable and convivial lunch.

(Mike Fraser)



OBITUARIES

We are very sad to report the passing of Peter Cave and Graham Protheroe. Peter Cave joined in February 2017 and died on 21 March after a long battle with cancer. We understand Peter's funeral will be on 18th April and will be for the family only. However, the reception will be held at the Stables, Hampton Court Road on the 18th between 1.30 and 4.30 pm, and his daughter, Suzanne has asked that if any of our club members would like to attend, they would be very welcome. If you are going, could you please email her at: suze@realfeel.co.uk so that the catering can be of the appropriate order.

Graham's funeral will be on 20th April at 2 pm and will be held at Harbour View Crematorium and Woodland Burial Ground, Randalls Hill, Lytchett Minster, Poole, Dorset, BH16 6AN. There will be no flowers but donations to the Brain Tumour Charity. There is a Just Giving Account, [www.justgiving.com/Graham Protheroe](http://www.justgiving.com/GrahamProtheroe).

FUTURE EVENTS:

Sun22/26 Apr: H.L.P.C. Holiday to Harrogate.

Tue 1 May: Pub Lunch/Walk – The Four Horseshoes, Chobham

Tue 15 May: Club Luncheon – Speaker – Mr Tim Morris. 'Brooklands Motor Museum'

Tue 22 May: Visit to Brooklands Museum and Mercedes World, Weybridge.