



Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 233

News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

June 2018

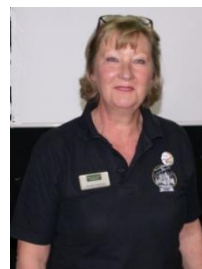
A little piece of Club History Chairman Chris Pollard invited members to take wine with him to mark a notable anniversary... the Club's 540th Luncheon meeting taking place exactly 45 years to the day since the very first luncheon. The 'oracle' aka Peter Turner had trawled the Club archive to put the occasion in context and it was duly toasted in celebratory glasses of 'bubbly'

THE SPIRIT OF BROOKLANDS.....was vividly brought to life by our May guest speaker **Maddie Passtours**, gallantly putting back major surgery to be with us. Her well-constructed and engagingly delivered presentation acting as an ideal 'taster' for the Club's visit the week following. She revealed how **Brooklands** had attained its legendary status as the **birthplace of British motor sport and aviation**.

Maddie went on to demonstrate how the world's first purpose-built motor racing circuit constructed in 1907 at Weybridge by wealthy landowner Hugh Locke King was more than a great sporting arena – the site of many engineering and technological achievements throughout eight decades of the 20th century. The spirit of the place pervades the Brooklands Museum, with exhibits ranging from giant racing cars such as the 24-litre Napier-Railton to a unique collection of Vickers/ BAC-built aircraft including the World War 2 Wellington Bomber, the BAC One-Eleven and, of course, Concorde. The speaker went on to list just a few more Brooklands standout attractions: the Motoring Village with its original tuning sheds; the Vickers Aircraft Park; the nostalgic London Bus Museum and the virtual 'flight' supersonic Concorde Experience.

After a brisk question time, Chairman-Elect Martin Hart proposed a vote of thanks, leaving a number of members with appetites keenly whetted for the upcoming Club visit to Brooklands, and all of us wishing Maddie a full and speedy recovery from her imminent back operation.

(Jim Woodford)



WALK FROM STEPHAN LANGTON, FRIDAY STREET, 5 JUNE

This was our second attempt at a Friday Street walk, the first being abandoned last year after torrential rain. 16 walkers turned up at the car park in the woods, including a potential new Probus member, Chris a friend of Hywel Thomas. Of course, our old friend, Finn the dog, was in attendance. At the same time a group from the Guildford Ladies Health Walks were also meeting in the car park, and they rapidly set off for Leith Hill. Our group set off at a brisk pace as the first part of the walk was downhill, and it took us to one of the many Hammer Ponds which line the bottom of the valley. Friday Street is a very pretty area, which was known many centuries ago for the production and manufacture of iron. Our downhill run was soon at an end, and the much more enjoyable climb followed it rapidly. This set the tone for the rest of the walk as we were deep in the Surrey hills and it turns out they are very aptly named. After our prolonged dry spell we didn't expect too much mud en-route, but where there was some, it was, unfortunately sufficient to suck the sole off of Vera MacRae's boot. She was then left to complete the walk with the sole flapping gently in the breeze. There were several very steep declines, followed, obviously, by just as many steep inclines. As usual, Finn was beautifully turned out for his walk, and like Denzil has a bit of trouble in negotiating any stiles en-route. Most he can scramble through, but we did have to lift him over one of them, and Eileen can vouch for the fact that he is a heavy dog. Finn does get treated to his own bowl and a bottle of lavender water halfway round the circuit, but he much prefers to dunk his snout into any muddy puddle that might avail itself and therefore always finishes the walk with a black muzzle, and looks similar to a child who has found a bar of chocolate in the back of the fridge. Luckily it was a downhill run to the pub, which seemed to make life that much easier. There were only 4 intrepid Probus diners, not sure what had happened to the usual crowd but hopefully they will turn up next time. The Guildford ladies turned up a little after us at the pub, quite understandably as they had made it all the way to Leith Hill and back including a stop for a cup of tea at Leith Hill Tower.

(Keith McArthur)

OBITUARY

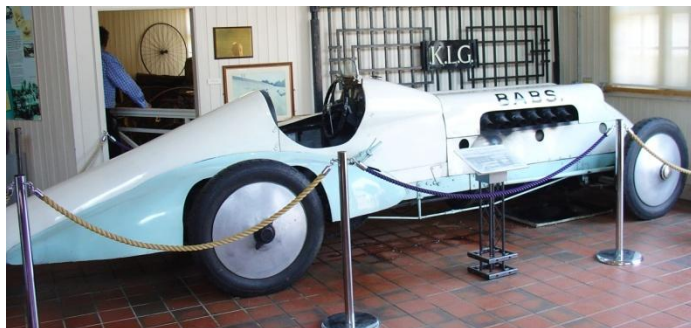
It is with regret that we have to report the deaths of our two Honorary Members. Norman Andrews and Gordon Prince. Norman died on 25 May and his funeral will be held on Wed 27 June at 14.45 at Woking Crematorium GU21 8TJ and afterwards at The Rowbarge, Woking GU21 7SA. Lois has asked to be informed if you are attending, for catering purposes, and Norman asked for those attending to wear cheerful colours. Gordon died on 4 May and his funeral will be held at Teddington Cemetery Chapel on 28 June at 11.30 am, followed by burial in the cemetery with the wake at the Lensbury Club, following the funeral. His family has asked whether our club members could indicate if they intend to attend the funeral and the wake. Could you therefore please let Chris Oprey know if you are going to either or both, so that he can pass the information on to Gordon's son, Richard. Chris can be contacted at 7 Normansfield Court, 22 Langdon Park, Teddington TW11 9FE, (Tel: 020 8977 0145).

PROBUS VISIT TO BROOKLANDS 22 May

Following on from the talk at the Probus lunch last week, 17 members and wives under the superb organisation of Martin Hart assembled at Weybridge on a glorious sunny day for what was a 'Do it Yourself' tour of Brooklands Museum. The Museum not only has one of the most iconic displays of classic racing cars from the early twentieth century to the present day but also a number of racing motor-cycles. This is not all. The Museum has a collection of Vickers aircraft from the post-war era, together with a hanger display of eighty years of aircraft manufacturing including the Wellington Bomber 'R' for Robert discovered in Loch Ness. Brooklands also has Concorde G-BBDG, the first aircraft ever to carry 100 passengers at twice the speed of sound. That in not all, there is also the London Bus Museum housed in a special building. And, as if that was not enough, Mercedes Benz World was next door where you could try your driving skills on a skid pan!! Many thanks Martin, a most enjoyable day.



The Group



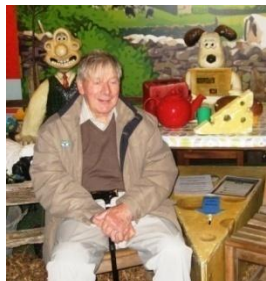
Parry Thomas's 'Babs' buried at Pendine Sands for 42 years!

HAMPTON LADIES' PROBUS CLUB TRIP TO HARROGATE, April 2018

The last person having arrived and the cases loaded onto the coach, 42 members, husbands and friends set off to Harrogate for their annual short holiday. After a stop for coffee on the M1 we continued our journey to Wakefield where we had lunch at the Barbara Hepworth Gallery which had received the "Arts Fund Museum of the Year Award in 2017 - but not everyone was impressed by the 'modern art' exhibits! We were given a warm welcome on arrival at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, rooms were allocated and there was enough time to rest before coming down to dinner. We were disappointed with the meal on the first night but, happy to say, the food much improved from then on. The first morning was left free for us to relax or explore Harrogate at our leisure, after which we enjoyed a sunny afternoon at RHS Garden Harlow Carr, a smaller version of Wisley. There was even a Betty's tearoom! Our second excursion was a scenic trip into the Yorkshire Dales with a stop for coffee in Grassington, a charming village in Upper Wharfedale, followed by a visit to the Wensleydale Creamery where we were able to sample many different types of the famous Wensleydale cheeses (as enjoyed by Wallace & Grommit). Next day we went to Castle Howard, famed for the TV series "Brideshead Revisited"; then on to Eden Camp, an ex-POW camp - now a museum dedicated to all aspects of WW2. Sadly it was then time to return home but our holiday was not quite over as we broke our journey en route to visit Hardwick Hall, a superb Elizabethan House. We arrived in Hampton at around 6.45pm, tired, but all agreeing we had had another excellent short holiday.



A bevy of beauties at Harlow Carr Gardens



David and 'friends' at the cheese factory



Helen and Kay in 1943!



Castle Howard



Look out! David's about at Harlow Carr Gardens

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 3 July: Pub Lunch and Walk – The Red Lion, Betchworth. Organiser – Keith McArthur

Tuesday 17 July: Club Luncheon – Speaker – Mr Les Rance, Club Historian to Hampton & Richmond F.C.