



Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 234

News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

July 2018

AND FINALLY, THE WEATHER....

“This is Chris Pollard in the Probus Newsroom at the Club’s June Luncheon Meeting, signing off with a **weather check** by a former Commodore and a current Vice- President here at the Motor Yacht Club, **Mike Chambers** Welcome, Mike and over to you.”

“Many thanks, Chairman Chris and a very good afternoon to you, gentlemen. **38 years in traffic control with the Royal Air Force** on various assignments in different Stations have taught me to keep a vigilant eye on weather conditions.

“Weather forecasts date back to the days of Aristotle and now, of course, the technology is light years more advanced (particularly after the wake-up call of the Fish fiasco ! Even now, it is very difficult to forecast accurately beyond a few days despite the thousands of weather watchers keeping the Met Office constantly updated. You need to factor in elements as disparate as the types of air masses and the influence of the Gulf Stream, heading at up to 150 mph from West to East.

“Would you ever have guessed that there is actually a ‘wrong’ kind of snow ? Or that you should bear in mind that a thunderstorm is considered one of the highest weather risks, both for its immediate impact and its potentially lethal after effects. At least the public has an exceptional breadth of source material from the print and broadcast media, the Internet and other digital platforms. And there is a myriad of companies giving their own slant on the weather.

“I will conclude by giving you your local forecast: an Armageddon warning is out for tornadoes and turbulence in Teddington and heatwaves and hurricanes in Hampton (hardly ever happen). With flash floods and gale force winds expected ,leave for the emergency services and armed forces has been cancelled indefinitely. That’s the way it’s looking, then, so whatever you’re planning to do in the next few days - *forget it !!* ”

The Chairman’s attempted proposal of the loyal toast is drowned by the thunder of stampeding Probians frantic to get home, pull down the shutters and start stacking up sandbags.

(Jim Woodford)



WALK FROM THE RED LION, BETCHWORTH, 3RD JULY.

THE HEAT IS ON, and it was still on when our secret 6 walkers arrived at the Red Lion, with sandals, water bottles, hats and sunglasses to see us through the day. The usual factoids were read out, mainly consisting of details of the industrial past of this part of Surrey as it appears it was all lime kilns and brickworks. Nowadays, Surrey seems such a beautiful county, but just over 100 years ago it was a smoking furnace of chimneys and quarries, similar to the iron works we heard about on the last walk at Friday Street. No Denzil, Eileen, or Finn this time, so the story line is a bit truncated. The first part of this walk was the hardest, with a steep staircase climbing straight out of the village, but we were then on a plateau and it was easy-peasy from them on. We passed by Dungate Farm, where eggs were collected for a mere £1.80 per half dozen, and Martin and Hilary Hart realised this was the spot where their daughter had purchased her golden retriever. There were about 6 dogs guarding the property, and they all came over for a sniff and a woof at us, luckily we had no Finn. It was then onwards to Wonham Mill, which had been on the site since the 14th century and is now converted into luxury apartments costing a mere £1m. each. Across from the Mill we followed a line of WW2 pill boxes, which were the defence in front of the North Downs. We then dropped down over a small bridge, where a young fellow dressed in orange seemed to be meditating, but had failed to put his trousers on that morning. Slightly alarming, but as we are constantly told it takes all sorts. Various stops for water and darts between shade soon got us by the side of the River Mole and back towards Betchworth, passing Betchworth House in the village with a few more factoids thrown in. Up to the Old Reigate Road to find a bus stop, but no buses, so it was the last run down the hill back to a welcome break at the pub, where we joined 8 Probus diners.



(Keith McArthur)

BARBEQUE 26 JUNE

The weather was with us once again for the setting of the Tamesis Club on the Thames for the Club's fourth barbeque. June this year has been the driest for many years and we took full benefit of the clear blue skies. Howard very kindly provided an enormous marquee which housed the majority of those attending, plus extra large brollies, and we certainly needed them. Again, the main ingredients were sourced from local traders, as were the selection of desserts, with the accompanying salads and other cold items being prepared by some of the ladies, and the cooks were installed behind the barbeques for the 80+ expected members. Naturally the bar was well supported and we were promptly served by two members from the Tamesis club. Our thanks go to all the 'worker' volunteers; to Howard for providing that enormous gazebo – it saved the day! and 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. It was again a wonderful social event.



**Photos:
David
Hutson
and
Peter
Turner**



OBITUARY

It was with regret that we reported last month the deaths of our two Honorary Members, Gordon Prince and Norman Andrews.

Gordon Prince was born in Southampton, an only child who during the early war years attended school in Bournemouth with holidays and other weekends spent in Southampton. At one of these weekends Southampton was 'blitzed', but despite the Luftwaffe's best efforts, Gordon remained unscathed. Queen's College, Oxford was Gordon's next port of call, where he attained his BA and BSc. In Chemistry. After a few years' research in the gas industry, Gordon joined Tioxide, a company producing the white pigment titanium dioxide. In his final role as Sales Operations Manager he forecast and monitored the output and export of the Company's factories throughout Europe. He remained in post for 33 years. Gordon's wife Audrey, whom he married in 1954, did not enjoy good health and in her latter years required constant care, which was lovingly administered. Gordon was a member of the Kingston Ramblers and RuTAC, both of which afforded him great enjoyment and companionship. Gordon was a member of the Kingston Ramblers and RuTAC, both of which afforded him great enjoyment and companionship. He attended his first Probus luncheon as, in Graham Norris's dry description, 'a self-invited guest'. Gordon took over the Treasurership of the Club from 1997 to 2006 and was Hon Examiner from 2009-11. In 2001 Gordon was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer to which he adopted a philosophical and pragmatic attitude. Thanks to an early diagnosis, treatment proved reasonably effective and he led a pretty normal life for several years. Gordon was made an Honorary Member in September 2016. Gordon was very meticulous in his life and had a file for almost everything. When organizing events, Gordon was always there with a 'goody-bag' of maps and useful information for the rest of the party to ensure that they got the most out of the day. His stubborn determination and cheeky laugh made him a friend to remember.



Norman Andrews was born in 1933 above his grandfather's building business in Weybridge. Whilst at school at Woking Boys Grammar school, he sang in a school production of the Messiah and thereafter developed a lifelong love of classical music. His education finished abruptly after he developed TB when treatment was then still pretty crude, lengthy and often painful, which probably accounted for his severe aversion to hospitals. Norman met and married his first wife Wendy, with whom he had four children. Another bout of TB then dogged him for some time. In July 1962 Norman – by now an Engineer - joined Iris Productions at Teddington studios which became ABC TV. He met Lois in 1974 in the Outside Broadcast base at Hanworth, his first marriage having ended several years before. There followed 43 years of Norm and Lo, and the birth of Debra. In his later years Norman was an organiser of walks for both ARTS and Probus and his leaflets became something of an art form, full of photos and intricate directions which kept him busy before his stroke. Norman was made an Honorary Member of Probus in October 2014. Sadly, during his last years he was wheelchair bound and suffered from dementia. Norman was a shy, reserved person and you had to know him a long time to see the real Norman with the mischievous smile and sharp wit. He was kind and generous man and very hospitable and forever displayed a determination in whatever he did.



Ryan Harmon. It is also with regret that we report the sudden death of Ryan. He joined the Club in September 2016 and was 84. He served in the Royal Navy for 22 years and saw service in submarines, frigates and an aircraft carrier. He had a later, distinguished career in the Civil Service.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 7 August: Pub Lunch and Walk – The Happy Man, Englefield Green. Organiser – Keith McArthur

Tuesday 21 August: Club Luncheon – No Speaker