



Pro-Biz



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

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August Club Luncheon

As there was no speaker at this lunch, the Chairman of the Social Activities Committee, Chris Oprey, gave members an update on forthcoming events including details of next month's speaker - Member Alan Haswell - together with the theatre visit in September. SAC Committee member Bruce Dawson-Moray gave a breakdown of the demographics he had compiled of ages and attendances of members to the various events offered by the Committee. The ages of Club members fell into four categories, 84% of membership falling into the 70-89 age group. He went on to say that the most popular events organised were the Barbeque, pub lunches with walks, theatre visits/concerts plus the occasional day trip. Chris then asked whether the members just wanted a Luncheon Club without any additional events and sought the views of those present. One member thought the balance was about right with six events per year, together with the New Year luncheon. In view of the diminishing membership, ideas were sought as to how new members could be sourced and it was suggested that an advert be placed in the Richmond and Twickenham Times, plus notices in public libraries and public notice-boards. Chris mentioned that our caterer, Sarah Burley, had offered to distribute flyers at some of the events for which she caters, as the majority are for retired people. It was agreed that this offer should be pursued. Chris went on to explain that although the events organised by the SAC are all based on a break-even basis, there is still a low take-up by actual members and even then, the events have to be pushed quite hard in order to make them viable. The continental holidays have somewhat stumbled of late, due mainly to the relatively high cost compared to those from travel agents on the high street or commercial holiday companies. Some of the newer members suggested day visits to Duxford, the Portsmouth area and a brewery visit.

Chris thanked members for their input and will report back to the SAC at their next meeting.

HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

Following the decision of the Executive Committee, Peter Turner was made an Honorary Member in recognition of his many years of service to the Club. Peter joined the Club in November 1992 and has been a member of a Committee from 1993 to the present day. He has been Speaker's Secretary since 1993, as well as Pub Lunch organiser. He was Chairman 1998-99. Peter was presented with the Honorary Membership badge at the August luncheon by Chairman Chris Pollard.

Please see Peter's Profile overleaf.



Probian to the core: Father of the Club, Peter Turner.

JOHN SHELTON

Secretary reported the death of John at the August Club luncheon, and he has been informed that the funeral arrangements are as follows: The Funeral will be at Mortlake Crematorium at 2.00pm on Thursday the 27th of September, with the Wake taking place at the Kew Gardens Hotel afterwards. Would all members who would be attending the funeral and/or Wake please inform Ron Gover or Nick Waters at the September lunch - today - so suitable catering arrangements can be made. Ron's telephone number is 020 8977 8638.

PRO-BIZ PROFILE

PETER TURNER

As elusive as the notorious Scarlet Pimpernel....Pro-Biz finally caught up with Peter Turner on the notable occasion of his being accoladed as an Honorary Member, acclaimed as Father of the Club and being presented with a long-service memento.

Peter joined the Club in 1992 at the behest of his great friend, the much-missed Graham Norris, and in 26 years of dedicated service has racked up some statistics to rival Alistair Cook!

He has recruited over 250 speakers as our luncheon guests, masterminded some 45 major events and reinstated the pub lunches between October 2000 and September 2013 while introducing the pre-lunch walks. And although, due to heart surgery five years ago, he now has to pace himself, Peter continues as Speakers' Secretary, arranges the Club's diary and curates the archives which chronicle the history of the Club since 1973.

Born in Twickenham, Peter was sent to the Mall School in 1939 and went on in 1946 to spend two years at a commercial college, acquiring numerous certificates in a syllabus set by the University of London. Called up for National Service but failing the medical, he embarked on a distinguished 44-year career with Westminster Bank – later NatWest Bank, the high point of which was a five-year position at the London Heathrow branch, rubbing shoulders with many famous and intelligent people. He retired in March 1992. In his teens, Peter was a committed Young Conservative and in fact met Joy on a train returning from the Conservative Blackpool Conference in 1958. The couple married in 1961 and lived for five years in Teddington before moving to Sunbury. They started a family in 1968 and have a daughter – *Bernice* and son *Adrian*.

Peter's hobbies are numerous: originally a member of the Society of Model Aeronautical Engineers, he has built up a collection of model aircraft and a few yachts. He played badminton three times a week and was a keen photographer. But his greatest interest and pleasure has always been motor cars and he claims to have been on the road for over 68 years, owning many vehicles.

We wish this amiable and popular Probian continuing enjoyment in driving his latest car for a long time to come.

(Jim Woodford)

WALK FROM THE QUEENS HEAD, EAST CLANDON, 4th September

This walk encompassed the National Trust property of Hatchlands. It is a little jewel set just off the Surrey Hills, and I am sure some of you will have visited it. 10 walkers met in the pub car park, and with a little swapping of cars we made our way to the car park at the Hatchlands entrance. It turns out that the drive was a bit of a waste of time, as there was another entrance about 100 yards from the pub. Hey ho, never mind, going through the main entrance gave us a free map with all the easily recognisable footpaths. No dogs this time, and therefore no Denzil and Eileen, but the walk was quite easy with no stiles to navigate. Funny how when Denzil attends hills loom in front of us and stiles seem to abound. Ann and Mike Frazer had done a circuit recently so they did the navigation, resulting in a complete circuit on the outside edge of the Hatchlands Estate, which affords stunning views of this very nice bit of countryside. The advantage of the Estate is that you can cut across to shorten the walk at any time you like, but being purists we completed the whole circuit including a little detour over to the House with its attendant tearoom and NT shop. They have a slightly unusual exhibit in the old stables, a mule and a donkey who like to be noticed and chat to the visitors in their very loud eyore voice. It was then back to the car park and a short drive took us back to the Queens Head, where we met another 9 diners. The service at the pub is very good, and all meals were brought up in record quick time.



(Keith McArthur)

Wednesday 24 October. Please note that the lunch at Merits will **not** take place as the College is closed for half-term

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 2 October: Pub Lunch and Walk – The Stag on the River, Eashing Organiser – Keith McArthur

Tuesday 16 October: Club Luncheon – Mr Dave Raven – Taggs Island History