



# Pro-Biz



Web site - [www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk](http://www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk)

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## **LIFE AT THE CUTTING EDGE**

The Probian answer to Edward Scissorhands took the shape of **Alan Haswell**, the speaker at the Club's September Luncheon Meeting. Welcomed by Chairman Chris Pollard as 'one of our own,' Alan rendered a lively account of a colourful career in **importing catering and hairdressing implements**.



Born in 1939, Alan spent his early childhood in Wandsworth, before, with his father serving the RAF in World War II, he and his mother were sent to stay with his aunt in Bournemouth. Returning to London in 1944, in the latter stages of his education Alan became adept at 'borrowing' from other students' work, taking care to introduce a few judicious mistakes. This strategy, alas, did not serve him well in his 'O' Levels. Alan's first job was in a trouser factory, checking inside and outside leg measurements, pocketing £20.00 for a 5 ½ day week. There followed his call-up for National Service in the RAF, one of his most important duties being running the bar in the Officers' Mess! After demob, Alan filled a number of increasingly high-calibre sales positions. Romance bloomed with one of his lady clients, Pamela, who eventually became his wife. Then living in Burgess Hill, near Brighton, a meeting with Pamela's cousin Ben led to the offer of a job as General Manager with wide operational leeway in a company importing for resale to wholesalers, catering utensils and hairdressing tools. The world became Alan's oyster as his quest for sources took him to Japan, Hong Kong, Korea and India, not to mention France, Germany and Italy - no Brexit worries then! After 28 years of successful wheeling and dealing, Alan retired, moving to his present home in Thames Ditton. He was a Rotarian for 10 years and President in 1997 during which time over £21,000 was raised for charity. He has been a keen golfer and is a staunch supporter of Fulham FC, also enjoying watching his grandson play football – in all weathers.

In moving the vote of thanks, Chris Oprey suggested that following Alan's entertaining presentation, other members who had led interesting lives might like to share their experiences. Gentlemen, the Speakers' Secretary awaits your call.

*(Jim Woodford)*

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

**There is a visit organised to TWICKENHAM RFU preceded by lunch at The Royal Oak, Isleworth at 12noon on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018.** The lunch is purely optional and will give members a chance to meet up before moving on to Twickenham RFU. The cost is £20.00 per person for the 75 mins tour plus the cost of your lunch. Flyers are on the table with your name badges. Do come along.



## WALK FROM THE STAG ON THE RIVER, 2nd OCTOBER

A fine autumn day greeted our walk from the pub at Eashing, the usual factoids being read out, including a visit to see the memorial to Jack Phillips the radio operator on the Titanic. This walk was promised to be no more than 3 miles and on the flat, as it would be along the towpath of the River Wey, but as we all know promises are sometimes broken and as the 17 walkers (+ Pepper the dog) set off, the first thing they encountered was a rather steep climb through a field well stocked with pheasants. There was a shooting party nearby as the sound of 12 bores was much in evidence. Only one stile to cross on this walk, and this task was accomplished with only minor troubles. It was then off towards Godalming, first a short distance on a fairly busy road and then turning into a quieter lane which lead passed the Super Vet establishment as seen on TV. A little downhill run took us into Godalming, and to the memorial gardens for Jack Phillips with a tablet that recorded his heroism on that fateful night in 1912. Navigation at this point became a little tricky, and we set off on a very large detour of about 2 miles returning almost to the memorial garden, before we found the towpath route along the river. By now there was a certain amount of muttering from the walkers as time was running out and it looked as if we were going to be quite late for lunch. Following a sign for a well marked footpath, we soon encountered an overgrown mess and realised that although it was well signposted it certainly had not been walked for some while. A quick phone call to the pub was made to warn them we would be rather late, and then a switch-back of steps and various ups and downs along the towpath finally brought us a welcome view of Eashing in the distance. One last push and we were over the ancient bridge and into the pub, to be welcomed by 13 Probus members who by then had more or less finished their lunch. Our promised 3 miles had, in fact, turned out to be 5.7 miles and this news was greeted without 3 much enthusiasm from most of the walkers. The pub handled our late arrival without too much trouble (even allowing Pepper the dog inside) as they had two other fairly large groups booked in, one being the shooting party which we had heard earlier on. They all looked resplendent in their shooting jackets, plus furs, and extra special wellies. Luckily, they had left their artillery elsewhere.

*(Keith McArthur)*



The walkers



Val Hutson's whole baked camembert inside a rustic loaf lunch!

## FUTURE EVENTS:

**Tuesday 6 November:** Pub Lunch and Walk –The Anchor, Pyrford Lock– Keith McArthur

**Tuesday 20 November:** Club Luncheon – Mr Les Jackson – Met. Police Teddington. 'Scams'

**Tuesday 27 November:** Pub Lunch at The Royal Oak, Isleworth followed by a Tour of R.F.U. Twickenham