



# Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 239 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

December 2018

## *Fighting fraud: Probus meets the SCAMBUSTERS!*

Calculated to strike fear into the heart of any fraudster... the formidable alliance of recently retired **Teddington-based Met Sergeant, Les Jackson** and **Nat West Community Banker, Sally Schofield**, operating across the West London area. Welcomed by Chairman Chris Pollard as our guest speakers at the Club's November Luncheon, Les and Sally delivered a searching – and sobering – analysis of the manifold cunning means employed by the scamsters to rob us of our money and, in some cases, our identities. Les warned us forcefully that the perpetrators are COMPLETELY INDIFFERENT in regard to your age and circumstances and into any immediate and longer-term damage they may do you. Their livelihood depends on parting you from your money, in pursuit of which they are persistent, ingenious, well-coordinated and absolutely ruthless. He went on to play chilling video clips of three of the most prevalent scams, showing how ATMs, emails, texts, phone calls and social media can all figure in the con-artists' web of deceit. Sally then expatiated on her own specific skills set for preventing and nullifying banking fraud. She reiterated that strict vigilance should be observed when replying to 'dodgy' emails, visiting unsecure websites and responding to cold telephone calls. The guiding principle should always be to divulge as little as possible about yourself and your finances, particularly as members' demographics place us high on the villains' 'hit list'. It was also of prime importance immediately to report any actual or suspected scams and to use every possible safeguard for computer security. Following a barrage of questions, Bruce Dawson – Moray's proposal of the vote of thanks paid tribute to the professionalism and relevance of the presentation. It only remained for members to see and sample some of the useful literature and safety devices on display.



*THANKS (yet again) TO PETER TURNER for providing such a fitting finale to a very strong 2018 speakers programme.*

*(Jim Woodford)*

## TRIP TO TWICKENHAM

Led by Past Chairman Hywel Thomas, who also is an Official Guide for Twickenham R.F.U. Stadium, nine intrepid members on Tuesday 27 November embarked upon an in-depth tour of this magnificent stadium, the largest rugby football stadium in the world. Having first 'stoked-up' at The Royal Oak, Isleworth, it was then a very short trip to 'Twickers'. To rugby enthusiasts all over the world, the name Twickenham signifies the RFU Stadium where the first stadium was built over 100 years ago in 1910, with the final phase of redevelopment now complete, it now includes a luxury hotel, fitness centre, theatre, shops and offices. Our group survived the squally showers to take a tour around the Stadium, starting at the shop. Hywel then took us to the top of the North Stand, where a panoramic view of the ground could be enjoyed. This was followed by visits to a hospitality suite, the Members Lounge, Council Room, Royal Box, Medical room and the England changing rooms. It was an extremely interesting trip and our thanks go to Hywel for his very professional delivery as a 'Tour Guide'. Keep up the good work!



*In the Royal Box*



*English Dressing Room*



*On the corridor walls of the Dressing Room*

## **WALK FROM HAMPTON COURT TO TIDE END COTTAGE, TEDDINGTON – 4 DECEMBER**

The first group of walkers met up at little Sainsbury's car park at 9.30 eagerly awaiting the arrival of a 111 bus to run us down to Hampton Court Bridge. We were informed by Nick Waters that a food bank had opened that morning in The White House, which should undercut Sainsbury's prices with no trouble at all. The bus was quite crowded but we managed to squeeze in, whereupon Denzil got into discussion with some fellow passengers to whom he extolled the virtues of his barber shop singing group which meets at the White House every Thursday at 8.00 pm. Silver tongued Denzil seemed to persuade at least one bus passenger to attend, we will check with him another day whether he was successful. Our Probus group's behaviour was exemplary on the bus, and they didn't revert to the school children's tactics of pushing and shoving, shouting, and screaming. Piling off at Hampton Court we met up with Ian and Vera Macrae (Granny V) who had already started their day by walking across Bushy Park. After a welcome comfort break we set off along the towpath towards Kingston Bridge, where we were due to meet up with Maura Waters and Hilary Dodman. The only factoid we had on the way was to point out the eco house belonging to Professor Kelly, who you may remember came and gave us a talk about particulate pollution in London. It was a bright and sunny day which made the sight of Kingston Bridge quite spectacular, and sure enough Maura and Hilary were patiently waiting for us. Another comfort stop in the John Lewis store set us all up for the final leg from the bridge to Teddington Lock, passing on the far side our summer BBQ venue at Tamesis Sailing Club. The skyline at Teddington Lock has recently been revised with the demolition of the Thames Television Studios and the building of new flats in its place. It was quick spurt over the footbridge and into The Tide End Cottage where our usual diners were already set up. A total of 22 Probus members and friends sat down to a very nice lunch, having met another group of ladies who had walked from Richmond to Teddington and intended to carry on to Kingston to do some severe damage to their husbands credit cards. After lunch we went our separate ways, taking various routes to return home with much waving of our magic bus passes.

*(Keith McArthur)*

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## **ANOTHER EXCELLENT CONCERT AT THE CADOGAN HALL!**

Our thanks to Chris Oprey, for organising yet another extremely successful return visit to the Cadogan Hall, Sloane Square on Friday 7 December, with 40 members and guests attending another of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's Concerts. The title of this concert was 'A Winter Wonderland' with conductor for the evening Owain Arwel Hughes CBE. The concert featured works by Humperdinck, Prokofiev, Delius and Tchaikovsky. In appreciation of the composers and music, the Cadogan was virtually a sell-out. First piece included excerpts from Humperdinck's Hänsel & Gretel to be followed by Prokofiev's Lieut Kijé: Suite. After the interval we were treated to Tchaikovsky's Eugene Onegin - Polonaise & Waltz, Delius' Sleigh Ride and for the finale excerpts from Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite. The winners of CD's were Christine Leadbetter and Kay Williams. Well done Chris for once again arranging this fine event.

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## **JANUARY LUNCH**

A reminder that the Lunch in January is open for all members to bring their wives, partners or guest of their choice. Please note that is our usual monthly Lunch Meeting.

Members need to complete the application form **by 4<sup>th</sup> January** if they are attending, **whether or not they are bringing a guest**. Application forms are available from the Secretary's table just inside the front door at today's lunch. Completed forms are needed for our caterer and must be returned to Chris Oprey by no later than Friday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

If you are not attending the lunch, the usual notification to the Secretary on the Friday beforehand will suffice.

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## **FUTURE EVENTS:**

**Wednesday 2 January:** Pub Lunch and Walk –The White Hart, Hampton Wick– Organiser - Keith McArthur

**Tuesday 15 January:** Club Luncheon – Ladies Lunch – No Speaker.