



Pro-Biz



Web site - www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk

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JANUARY PROBUS LUNCHEON, COMPLETE WITH LADIES

Our January Probus luncheon was quite a sea change for the gentlemen, as they had very generously invited the ladies to their semi-secret bolt hole of Thames Motor Yacht Club. A total of 72 diners arrived to squeeze into the bar area, where we all managed to perch around the very small bar tables which hold 4 people very comfortably, but with careful packing, can take 8 or 9 without too many collisions. Chris and Pauline Oprey did a magnificent job in organising the seating arrangements and Hywel Thomas did a sterling job to welcome people at the door, and very efficiently ticked off their names. The gentlemen were on their best behaviour (for a change) while the pre-lunch drinks were consumed, and we were then all called to order with the bell at the bar and escorted our ladies to the designated tables. Our Chairman, Chris Pollard, welcomed our guests, and then followed a superb 3 course lunch prepared by Sarah Burley. Various toasts were given by Chris Oprey, Martin Hart, and the final toast to the Club from our Chairman. As you can see from the photographs everyone had a great time and there is every chance of a repeat performance next year.

(Keith McArthur)



(Photos: Martin Hart & Keith Willcocks)

WALK FROM THE HARE & HOUNDS, OSTERLEY, 5th FEBRUARY

Fourteen walkers, plus Finn and Pepper, were encouraged by the end of our recent cold snap to venture out into the wind and weather for a circuit of Osterley Park. Nice to see Finn back with us, it can be reported that he was up to his usual tricks of stuffing his flat snout into any puddle that came his way. Pepper was also up to his usual tricks of herding our group like a flock of sheep, as he loves to run up and down the line and keep us all in order.

The walk consisted of the outer edge of Osterley Park, which gave us glimpses every now and then of the house that sits at the centre. The grounds consist of part park, part grazing, and about 50% of it for a farm. Evidently, the last working farm within the confines of London. Part of the walk goes through what looks like common land between the park and the urban area of Heston, and there are about a dozen gypsy horses staked out in this area looking quite neglected and they seem to be fed a diet of bread and hay, which is most probably not ideal. Cutting through their circular areas, we made our way over to the M4 which cuts the whole area in half. A neat footbridge took us over the motorway and there was a



narrow path on the far side leading up to a dead end road which takes you back into the main park. For some unknown reason this narrow path seems to attract scores of empty beer cans which are littered on both sides, why anyone would wish to spend their drinking time in such a scruffy area is unclear. Going back over the motorway gives you a view of Osterley Park farmhouse, which you might be interested to know is up for sale and has been for some time, not surprising really as it sits barely 100 yards from the M4. It was here that we picked up the path passed the ornamental ponds that are located in front of the main house, and on the far side the pub could be spotted in the distance. Of course, the pace picked up a little with the promise of drink and food on the horizon, and we were soon all seated in the Hare and Hounds along with 13 other Probus members. The pub is an excellent venue, to be thoroughly recommended, the food, service, and décor all to a high standard, the only drawback being that Finn and Pepper were not allowed into the restaurant. Denzil had to revert to his old tricks and secreted about his person a few chips to keep Finn happy when he returned to his car.

(Keith McArthur)

It's joke time!

Heaven can wait

An elderly patient came round in a hospital bed after an operation and was rather perturbed to find screens around his bed.

‘What are the screens for?’ he feebly asked the nurse taking his temperature. ‘Didn’t you expect me to come round from the anaesthetic?’

‘Oh, it’s not that,’ the nurse reassured him. ‘The building opposite caught fire and went up in flames, and we didn’t want you think the worst had happened.’

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 5 March: Pub Lunch and Walk –The Cricketers, Epsom Common– Organiser - Keith McArthur

Tuesday 19 March: Club Luncheon –Speaker – Dr David Turner – ‘Life and Legacy of George Bradshaw’

Fri 29 March: Lunch at Brook Restaurant, Brooklands College – **This unfortunately has been cancelled.**