



# Pro-Biz



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

**Issue No 249 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus**

**November 2019**

## **A WALK YOU COULD WRITE A BOOK ABOUT**

and – by George - Russell did !

A gruelling 950-mile walk, subsequently chronicled in an absorbing book, has to date contributed over £27,000 to a leading British cancer charity. The intrepid walker, and author is **Russell George**, introduced by Chairman Martin Hart as our guest speaker at the Club's October luncheon. Russell held members enthralled throughout his entertaining and inspiring account of his epic hike from **John O' Groats to Land's End**, a completely fresh post-redundancy challenge for Russell and a mega financial fillip for the invaluable work of **Cancer Research UK**, with the walk raising £17,500 and royalties on the follow-up book 'Footsteps in Summer' amounting so far to a further £10,000.

In excellent training and thoroughly well kitted out, Russell's, southward journey, blessed by glorious summer weather, took him from

John O' Groats via Glasgow, Liverpool, Monmouth, Bristol, Bridgewater, Launceston, Truro and finally Land's End, with family members and friends keeping him company at a number of stages along the way.

In the course of his Odyssey. Russell had to combat loneliness, an extended heat wave, a troublesome blister and a variety of other incidents to test his sense of humour. In contrast was the slower pace of life across rural Britain, the glorious summer and a wealth of beautiful flora, fauna and places of historical interest, and of course, eventually, the warm glow of an arduous mission well and truly accomplished.

After a fusillade of questions, Keith McArthur injected a touch of drollery into the moving of the vote of thanks. Members responded with a rousing ovation for Russell – and voted unanimously to elect him a Probus Plodder emeritus.

*(Jim Woodford)*

**Like the talk ? You'll love the book!** 'Footsteps in Summer' is available at [footstepsinsummer.com](http://footstepsinsummer.com) or via 07733 140562 - Price £10.00 All royalties donated to Cancer Research UK



## **JANUARY CLUB LUNCHEON**

A reminder to all members that the Lunch in January is open for members to bring their wives, partners or guest of their choice and flyers for this event are still available today.

As this is our normal monthly Lunch Meeting, members are reminded to complete the application form which can be collected at today's lunch. Details of the menu and booking arrangements are on the form and we need to have the forms completed and returned to Bruce Dawson-Moray by no later than Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January in order to assist with the catering arrangements. If you are not attending the lunch, the usual notification to the Secretary on the Friday beforehand will suffice.

## WALK FROM THE EXPRESS TAVERN, KEW BRIDGE, 5<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER

Eleven ultra keen walkers, and Pepper the dog, turned up on time (almost) outside The Express Tavern on the north side of Kew Bridge. The usual factoids about the walk were explained, and after pointing out the large structure behind the pub which is the new Brentford Football Stadium we all set off down towards the river, negotiating through the four sets of traffic lights. Various buildings were pointed out, which now sit on the sites of pubs that have long since been demolished. At Strand on the Green there is a long 19<sup>th</sup> century frontage, now flats, which used to be the old Kew laundry. By now we were on the towpath, which pleased Pepper as he seems to have a taste for river water. Soon we were passing The Steam Packet, The City Barge, and The Bull, all of which, including the cottages, are protected by a variety of flood defences as the tide mark was half way across the footpath, and it could easily be seen just how high the river comes in this area. Ian Macrae gave us a little film history, with tales of how The Beatles, in their very early days, had made two films involving The City Barge. We had to leave the towpath and go up on to the road parallel with the river for a short while, as the rather nice houses in this area back on to the river. We re-joined the towpath just before Chiswick Bridge, passing several famous rowing clubs, which feature each Easter in the Oxford and Cambridge boat race. Once under Chiswick Bridge the old Mortlake Brewery came into sight, and as we had had a Probus talk from the manager some years ago the tale of its long history and recent demise was related, including the discovery of two human skulls tucked away in a dusty cupboard. It was intended to walk on to Barnes Railway Bridge where we were going to cross, but as time was running on we cut back to Chiswick Bridge and made our crossing there. The towpath on the south side is a little more picturesque as it is lined with trees on both sides, through which we could see the buildings for the National Archives as we made our way back to Kew Bridge. After directions from the local postie, we were up over the bridge and hot footing it back to The Express as it had started to rain heavily. On entering the pub we made our usual announcement of being a Probus walking group, and mentioned that we had booked tables for 20 people. This statement was greeted with complete blank faces from the bar staff, and there was much leafing through their bookings diary. A little confusion resulted with the mother and baby crèche in the back bar being hastily relocated to make room for this group of seniors. For the first time there were no diners to meet us, so we managed to seat ourselves without too much of a squash.

*(Keith McArthur)*



## FUTURE EVENTS:

**Tuesday 3 Dec:** Pub Lunch and Walk –The Pelican, Addlestone. Organiser Keith McArthur

**Tuesday 17 Dec:** Club Christmas Luncheon – No Speaker

**2020**

**Tuesday 21 Jan:** Club Luncheon – Ladies' Lunch – No Speaker