



Pro-Biz



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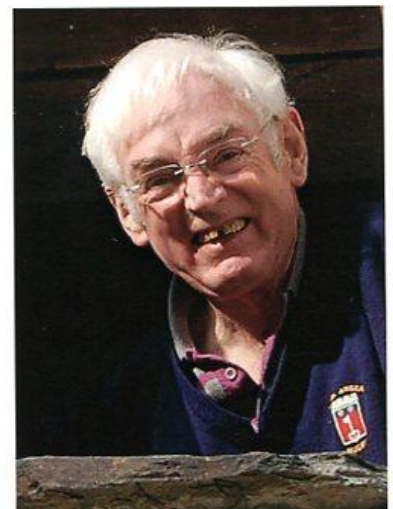
January 2020



ONCE AGAIN, JANUARY 2020 heralds a departure from our normal monthly Lunch WHEN we have with us our Ladies!
Welcome to you all and we hope you enjoy THE OCCASION

JOHN MEREDITH SMITH 23 July 1937- 24 December 2019

Members are probably aware that John died on Christmas Eve, having been ill for several months. His funeral was on Friday 10th January and was well attended by Probus members. John had been elected Deputy Chairman and Chairman-elect last April, and the Executive Committee is actively considering a replacement for this post. Our condolences to Moya and all members of the family.



PROBUS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Members gathered as usual to enjoy a pre-lunch drink and chat with colleagues. However, being the December meeting, there was much activity as members exchanged cards left right and centre. Members enjoyed a three course seasonal lunch at the normal cost, the additional expense being met by Club funds. As we did not have a guest speaker, the time was filled by Treasurer Keith Willcocks giving a fair rendition of a monologue usually performed by Roy Hudd. We were then very professionally entertained by our Caterer, Sarah Burley, who sang a number of Christmas Carols, together with a couple of others which required participation by the assembled membership. The Chairman presented Christmas gratuities to the catering and bar staff and thanked them for looking after us throughout the past year.

The Chairman finished by wishing all members a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

WALK FROM THE HAMPTON ALE HOUSE AROUND HANWORTH AIR PARK 7th JANUARY

To fulfil the members wishes, which were to be closer to home in the winter, this walk centred around The Hampton Ale House in Tangleby Park, and you can't get any closer than that. 14 walkers met at the usual time beside the pub, and with the call for bus passes some had to sprint home to collect them. There was a bit of bad news for the New Year, as Finn the dog has passed over to the big kennel in the sky so we will no longer be seeing him pushing his snout into any odd puddle or ditch. With everyone armed with their bus passes we then boarded the 111 which took us a few stops up into Hanworth, alighting to cross A316 by footbridge. This took us to the Longford river which emerges into daylight from its Hampton and Hanworth culvert. The walk entailed many factoids, the first being the story of the Longford built in 1640 for Charles I. It was constructed to supply Hampton Court with water for both domestic and ornamental features, and obviously went to the Kings head as he lost it soon after. It was only a short walk towards Hanworth Air Park, whereupon more factoids regarding its long history of aviation was recounted. This included tales of aircraft production on the site from the 1st World War all the way up to the 1950s. A notable event was the arrival of the Graf Zeppelin which landed there in 1931, en route to Rio de Janeiro. At 726 ft. long it almost filled the park, how the pilot got it down in one piece is a bit of a mystery. There was a rumour circulating in the Club that this event was witnessed by our recently departed oldest member Fred Martin, but it turned out that though he had seen a Zeppelin it was when he was about 4 years old in the 1st World War long before he moved to Hampton. At the entrance to the park the Longford river ducks once again into a culvert, as its use as an airfield would have been somewhat restricted with a river across the runway. After crossing the park we circumvented Hanworth House which has a long history, the original building (no longer with us) being a hunting lodge for Henry VIII. The present building (which is derelict) dates from the Victorian era. Leaving the area of the house it was then a downhill run back towards Hampton, over the footbridge near Kempton Waterworks, through Hanworth and into the Nurserylands, which took us to the pub in double quick time where we were joined by 10 diners. Some of our offsite diners (from the wilds of such places as Shepperton and New Haw) had followed their sat navs to the letter and found themselves in the Sainsbury's car park out of view of the pub, so had to do a little bit of searching on foot. The Pub struggled to cater for the 24 covers but did manage in the end.



(Keith McArthur)

NEW MEMBERS HOST

Nearly all current members, when attending for their first time, would have been welcomed by genial Tony Cooke, who has donned the mantle of New Members Host since its inception in 1999. Tony has now felt it time to hand over the reins to a younger member, and Phil McHardy has volunteered for the role.

Very many thanks Tony, for everything you have done over the past 20 years. Your friendly and amiable demeanour has been most appreciated by us all.

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 4 February: Pub Lunch and Walk –The London Apprentice, Isleworth– Organiser - Keith McArthur

Wed 5 February: London Theatre Visit and Lunch – ‘9 to 5 The Musical’ - Organiser – Bruce Dawson Moray

Tuesday 18 February: Club Luncheon –Speaker – Mr Larry Dann, ‘Carrying on Since Childhood’