



Pro-Biz



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

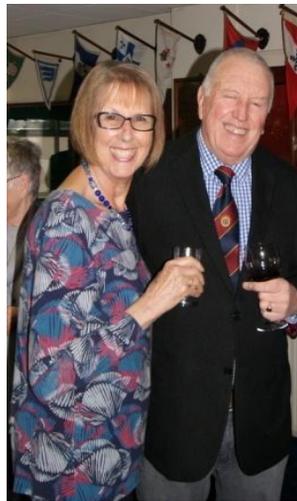
Issue No 252

News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

March 2020

JANUARY PROBUS LUNCH, COMPLETE WITH LADIES

This January we once again invited our ladies to lunch including widows of past members. In total 88 diners arrived and were comfortably seated. Bruce Moray-Dawson – Chairman of the Social Activities Committee - did a magnificent job in organising the seating with Hywel Thomas greeting people at the door. Once seated our Chairman, Martin Hart welcomed our guests, and there followed a three course lunch prepared by Sarah Burley. Bruce gave the welcoming toast and 'Father of the Club' while Peter Turner gave the toast to 'The Club' with the final toast to 'The Queen' from our Chairman.



WALK FROM TEDDINGTON LOCK TO LONDON APPRENTICE, ISLEWORTH.

4th FEBRUARY

No navigational problems with this walk, as we started at Teddington Lock and it was straight down the towpath all the way to Isleworth. Eight walkers assembled at the footbridge, and after crossing collected one more who was patiently waiting by the Lock after taking the instruction from the flyer quite literally. No dog to accompany us this time, as our friend Pepper was not in attendance, but there were plenty of dog walkers along the towpath to keep us amused. A good example was four very fluffy dogs who crossed the towpath at speed from Ham Fields and rushed straight into the river, which was running quite fast, whereupon they frolicked about and got thoroughly soaked, so the owner would be left with a dog and car scrubbing exercise for the rest of the day. We had an explanation from Nick Waters on the problems associated with the washback tide, which can occur when the half-lock is closed. If you wish to know more, I would see Nick to explain the finer details. Marching on past Eel Pie Island we could view the house of Trevor Bayliss, but couldn't see any of his famous clockwork. From there we were on the Petersham Fields, where we had a few factoids from Phil McHardy regarding his time as a cowman and dairy worker, from where he supplied milk throughout Richmond. Soon we were outside the premises of Richmond Canoe Club, and here Colin Greasby pulled out a host of keys from his pocket in order to open the door of the Club canoe store, so we could all have a nose in there. It seemed to be full of very expensive canoes, one in the pile which belonged to Colin. He offered us a lift down to the London Apprentice, but I am glad to say we all declined. Next it was under Richmond Bridge and a quick stop at Mark Edwards boat building business, where there was a fairly large row boat which has just been built and was awaiting varnishing. It turned out that Mark has had an order from Disney to build seven of these craft for a film, and hopefully this will turn out to be a lucrative order. On past the White Cross and we were soon at Richmond Railway Bridge, where it was Nick's turn to give us various factoids regarding the Plantagenet royal palaces which had been built and demolished over the centuries at this spot. We had intended to cross to the north side of the river via the half-lock, but it is closed at the moment for maintenance and repair, so we clambered on to Twickenham Bridge and, unfortunately, had a little mishap on the far side when Alice Fordham took a tumble off the steps slipping on some leaves. She was rapidly hoisted back on to her feet, and after a visit to Teddington Hospital later in the afternoon was diagnosed with a sprained ankle, no breakages thank God. Needless to say the hospital visit was after our lunch. After filtering our way through the nooks and crannies of Old Isleworth we were then at the London Apprentice where we met 6 diners, and a very nice lunch overlooking the river was enjoyed by all.

(Keith McArthur)



Colin's boat store!

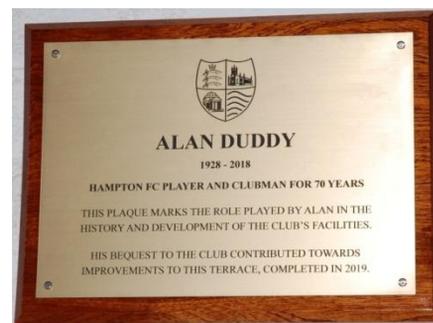
9-5 THE MUSICAL

Thirty-six members and friends plus guests from Sunbury Probus set off on Wednesday 5 February to The Strand for lunch at The Strand Palace Hotel followed by a visit to see '9 to 5 The Musical' based upon the song by Dolly Parton. As we have come to expect from Arena Coaches, we were deposited at the Hotel spot on 12 noon, giving us ample time to eat a most enjoyable lunch in very comfortable surroundings. It was then a mere few steps across the road to the theatre, where we had excellent seats for the show, which was most enjoyable. The homeward trip was uneventful, if a trifle slow due to rush-hour traffic, but we were safely home by early evening. Many thanks must go to Bruce Dawson-Moray for arranging an excellent day out.

Alan Duddy



Alan Duddy joined Probus in 1996 and was a member for over twenty two years. He was also a member of Hampton Football Club both as a player and Chairman and connected to that Club for 70 years. Recently a plaque was erected to honour Alan's long association.



WALK FROM THE PLOUGH, EAST SHEEN, 3RD MARCH

Eleven walkers met at The Plough, all being on time for a change. Road routes from Hampton via Richmond, Kingston, and the 316, must have all been clear. A bright but chilly day met us, and we were off across East Sheen Common to the Bog Gate into Richmond Park. As the saying goes “the clue is in the name” as the park, along with everywhere else, is very soggy at the moment. Although we didn’t have Pepper the dog this time, there was every other mutt from miles around being taken out for their morning constitutional. Navigation in the park is fairly easy, as there are a thousand paths to choose from, and we were soon over the hill making our way to the Penn Ponds through a large herd of young colourful deer. Crossing the main roads in the park is always an exciting experience, as although the cars seem to stick to the speed limit, bicycles certainly do not, and there are lots of those whizzing along. After a downhill run through some light wundergrowth (as David Bellamy used to say) we were soon at the causeway that crosses the Penn Ponds, where a few factoids regarding the ponds were read out. It would appear that they were 16th century gravel pits where the spoil was used to build houses and roads in the local area, and afterwards were filled with carp for the King to have for his tea. Back up on the slight incline towards White Lodge, we were passed at speed by another walking group, about our age, who were fully kitted up with Nordic walking poles which obviously gave them a great advantage as they whizzed passed us. We were then on the road to White Lodge, dodging the bicycles on the way up the slope. More factoids were read out regarding the Royal Ballet School, which has some 125 pupils aged between 11 and 16. From our vantage point at the gate we couldn’t see any signs of ‘strictly’ or hear any music, so we can only assume they were in ordinary classes doing their algebra and calculus. I, like most people in our group, thought that it was Princess Alexandra who lived in White Lodge, but it turned out that her place is further across the park in Thatched Lodge, an easy mistake to make as White Lodge is by far the most impressive building in the park. From here it was a swift run down the hill back towards East Sheen, and we were soon back at Bog Gate, through the Common, and well on the way to The Plough. If you think the borough of Richmond has some very posh properties, then East Sheen must be its epicentre as there are some fantastic houses clustered around the pub. As we approached, we spotted Bill Rawcliffe’s Postman Pat wagon, and inside we met the rest of the other seven diners. A really nice pub, food is excellent, and lots of staff to make for a very pleasant lunchtime. *(Keith McArthur)*



Dave and Lesley Rogers – A contribution from Ray Ball



Lesley Mary Rogers

Peacefully in her sleep on 7th February, aged 81 years, after a short illness. Formerly in Hampton Hill and latterly Motcombe, Dorset. Beloved wife of David, mother to Catherine and Simon, and grandmother to five. She will be sadly missed and fondly remembered by all who knew her.

The funeral service was held at Salisbury Crematorium on Friday 28th February

Many of us will remember Dave Rogers and wife Lesley. Dave was Chairman of the SAC from 1997 – 2005, taking a year out to be Probus Chairman from 1999-2000. I’m sure we all recall our favourite trip either to France or equally one here at home. I have early memories, having worked with him at Thames Television and Cardiff before then. I introduced Dave to Probus when we were based at Fulwell Golf Club. Dave’s wife Lesley has just passed away, and was President of Ladies’ Probus 2005-2007, and I happened to see the attached Notice in the Richmond and Twickenham Times.

For me it sums up, as far as is possible, their lives. I hope you agree. *(Ray Ball)*

AS HAPPY AS LARRY

From a very early age, the lure of the footlights proved irresistible to **LARRY DANN**. Introduced by Chairman Martin Hart as guest speaker at the Club's February Luncheon, Larry went on to reveal how his passion continued to inspire him throughout a long and richly fulfilling acting career. Larry first paid tribute to the Chiswick based Corona Academy who provided him with enough work to enable him to pay his way while becoming versed in his craft. In his talk, **CARRYING ON SINCE CHILDHOOD** he explained that while the stage had remained his first love, TV and film had always been a major factor, and Larry has featured in more than a hundred productions, his best-known role being that of Sgt. Peters in the log-running police drama, *The Bill*. The presentation was enlivened by some unique film clips.



Larry's love affair with the theatre intensified when he joined the Theatre Workshop in Stratford East, the beginning of a near 25-year association with the legendary Joan Littlewood. Larry went on the road with the smash-hit 'Oh! What a Lovely War', playing in London, Paris and on Broadway. *"There is no better feeling than appearing on stage, especially when you know you are in a fine production. As well as acting, I have had many opportunities of directing which I greatly enjoy"*. During his sojourn with many of theatre's luminaries Larry is reluctant to pick out an all-time favourite star. He does however cite Norman Wisdom as an outstanding mentor and friend and has great memories of David Niven, Kenneth Williams and Kenneth Connor, these last two were colleagues with Larry in some of the early 'Carry On' films. Among his many stage roles, Larry takes special pride in his performance in the classic 'Waiting for Godot'.

After Larry had dealt with a flurry of questions, the Chairman proposed the vote of thanks. *It is for sure that members, far from saying 'What a Carry-on!' wended their way homewards very happy indeed with Larry.*

(Jim Woodford)

Reminder that next month is the A.G.M. Please do your utmost to attend this important date in the Club's calendar.

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Gentlemen, the Treasurer has asked me to put an item in Pro-Biz to the effect that as next month is the AGM, annual subscriptions will be due on 1st May for the forthcoming year. Therefore, when you come to lunch in April, he would be grateful if you could make out your cheques for £42.00 - rather than the usual £22.00, which will include the £20.00 for your subscription for 2020/2021. Many thanks - Editor

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 7 April: Pub Lunch and Walk –The Woolpack, Banstead– Organiser - Keith McArthur

Sunday 19-26 April: H.L.P.C. Holiday to Scotland

Tuesday 21 April: Club Luncheon –A.G.M

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