



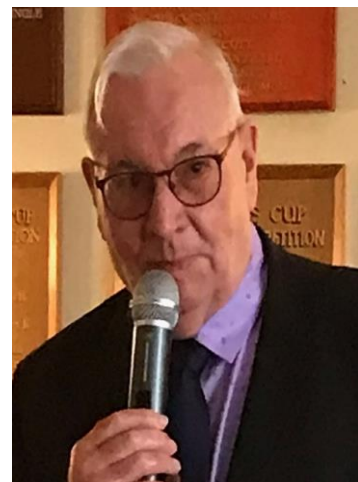
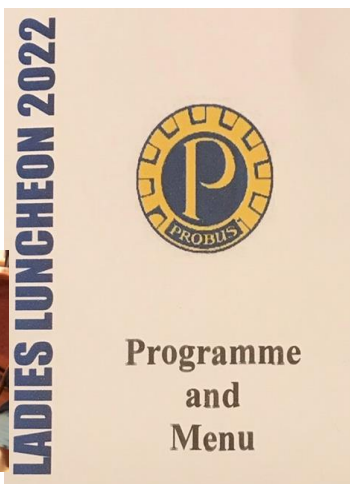
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Issue No 253 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus February 2022

LADIES LUNCHEON RESUMES: This January we once again invited our ladies to lunch, including widows of past members. In total, 57 diners attended. Our Chairman, Martin Hart welcomed our guests, and there followed a three course lunch prepared by our new caterers. 'Father of the Club' Peter Turner gave the toast to Our Guests, the Loyal Toast was given by Bruce Dawson-Moray and the final toast to 'The Club' was from our Chairman.



Programme
Chairman Martin Hart
Grace and Welcome Chairman
Toasts During Lunch:
Our Guests Father of The Club – Peter Turner
The Loyal Toast SAC Chairman, Bruce Dawson-Moray
~
The Club Chairman, Martin Hart



WALK AROUND BEDFONT LAKES – 4 JANUARY 2022



Our first trip out with Probus for 2022 was to Bedfont Lakes, a manicured and landscaped gravel pit site. This area has had a great deal of money spent on it with lakes and trees and lots of different pathways making it an excellent local amenity. There is plenty of bird life, including swans, and it still manages to be a little green oasis. 9 walkers turned up, with more than a few cancelling at the last moment due to a heavy rainstorm that ripped through on our way to the venue. Miraculously, the skies cleared when we arrived, and the rain almost stopped. A lot of laying water was encountered, so it was a good way to wash off your dirty walking boots. One circuit of the lakes took us just over the hour, and by then the cutting cold wind was beginning to feel quite uncomfortable, so it was straight off to the King's Fairway pub in Ashford for a pre-lunch coffee and warm up. We were later joined by 7 other diners, and a very reasonable meal was then consumed. Food, service, and gas log fire were all very welcome, and the pub comes highly recommended if you are ever over that way.

WALK MOLESEY HEATH TO HERSHAM -1 FEBRUARY 2022

Much better weather greeted the ten walkers for this outing than our last in the deluge which was Bedfont Lakes. Molesey Heath is an old gravel pit area which has been landscaped and is now a wildlife oasis in an urban setting. We had a new member join us, Martin Riddell. The walk began across the open fields between the River Mole and Island Barn Reservoir and we joined the footpath along the river. At the main gates to Molesey Heath landscapers were hard at work clearing undergrowth, they certainly had the right kit for the job complete with chainsaws and JCBs. Across the heath took us onto the ridge overlooking the reservoir with a good view of the clubhouse of Island Barn Sailing Club, but no sailors out on the water that day, they must have all gone back to work by now, God Bless 'em. Dropping down on the far side of the heath took us onto the river Ember which was enlarged after the 1968 floods which devastated Molesey. Passing under the main railway line it was on to the manicured grounds of Hersham Golf Course and then over a park where we came across a collection of medieval torture machines similar to those you might see in the Tower. These machines were tested out by the walking group and luckily most survived the experience. Returning to the pub a very nice Thai meal was served up and enjoyed by all.



FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 1 March: Pub Lunch and Walk, Slug & Lettuce, Staines - Organiser: Keith McArthur

Tuesday 15 March: Club Luncheon - Speaker: John Murray "50 years as a special constable"

Tuesday 29 March: Lunch at La Familia, Hampton Hill - Organiser: Brian Brignall
