



Pro-Biz



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Issue No 255 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus April 2022

LUNCH AT 'La Familia Restaurant' - 29 MARCH 2022



Our gourmets gathered at the ever-popular La Familia restaurant in Hampton Hill High Street for a delightful three course lunch, and even better company and conversation.

The doughty diners put themselves outside a range of Spanish delicacies including chorizo, croquetas and champinones before devouring pollo, pimenton or salmón a la plancha. There was just room for a generous dessert.

Thanks to Brian Brignall for organising the lunch, and to the attentive staff at La Familia.

WHEN MARIE LLOYD MET A SPECIAL CONSTABLE

The poet wrote 'I have measured out my life with coffee spoons'. Our lunchtime speaker in March, John Murray, told a different tale measuring one part of his full life with police cars and vans. He was referring to his many years as a Metropolitan Police Special Constable leading onto a volunteer role which allows him to indulge his passion for police vehicles in the Met's Historic Vehicles Collection. John's work as a Met Police volunteer also now includes a special interest in publicizing scams. John's time as a Special included serving in Teddington shoulder to shoulder with a future Commissioner of the Met, Sir John (now Lord) Stevens. An overall total of fifty years' voluntary service with the Met is an extraordinary record.



John's photographs aroused the audience to participate with nostalgia and recognition which was rather surprising until we realized that the Morris Minor parked outside our houses was a police car in disguise.

Of course, there was more than this and we learned about the work of significance the Specials do in the community to augment the work of the Police in areas such as family liaison and delinquency. The work involves close and personalised contact in a way that most regular police officers do

not have time for or indeed the requisite skills. It was not always so.

Specials in Victorian England were not popular being seen as the strong-arm section of the Met.

Marie Lloyd had a hugely popular music hall song on this theme- My Old Cock Linnet- with the immortal line :

"You can't trust a Special like an old time copper when you can't find your way home"

We are sure you could trust John Murray all the way home. The work of the Met's Special Constabulary needs a higher profile than being the butt of music hall artistes, no matter how amusing.

John received a public vote of thanks for an interesting and stimulating talk about an important but little-known aspect of the wider work of the Met Police and the deep and valuable commitment of its Specials and volunteers.

APRIL's WALK

There is no walk report for April as the walk was cancelled. But the extremely short walk directly from pub car park straight into The Bell pub at Fetcham took place as normal!

If you're thinking of joining a future walk, the walk leader will endeavour to have a print-out ready at the preceding Probus lunch, including start car park directions and pub postcode.

Please remember: the start of the walk may not be at the pub itself!

FUTURE EVENTS

May Club Luncheon, 17 May: Philip Onslow - 'Life aboard an Atlantic Sailing Yacht'

Pub Lunches /Walks: Organiser: Keith McArthur

Tuesday 3 May - The Cricketers pub, Aldershot Road ,Guildford GU3 3AA

Tuesday 7June: The Well House Inn, Chipstead Lane. Coulsdon CR5 3SQ

BBQ: Tuesday 28 June at the Tamesis Club, TW11 9QY