



Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 258 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus July 2022

BBQ AT THE TAMESIS CLUB - 28 JUNE 2022

Our BBQ on the Teddington riverside, aided by the new Tamesis marquee, was a great success. Well done to Chef Keith McArthur and the BBQ team for grilling a mountain of burgers and sausages and to the salad makers! Oliver's approach of "*Please sir, some more*" was applied liberally. We let no food go to waste. Thanks again to the Tamesis Club Commodore, our very own Chris Pollard, for his support. We donated £50 to the charity "International Doghouse" which hopefully will be applied in support of canines rather than errant husbands.



LUNCH TALK ON HABITATS AND HERITAGE by Mr. COLIN COOPER.

Habitats and Heritage is a charity based in South-West London.. The charity's manager Colin explained some of the work of the charity, which on the green habitat side includes creating green hubs, bug maps, cleaning the Thames foreshore, and supporting other groups. On the heritage side it includes conservation and restoration of various mausoleums in the area, one of those being the last resting place of the engineer who provided London's sewage system, Joseph Bazalgette. An oddity concerning that mausoleum: it was second hand, sold to the Bazalgettes in 1825 and came along with the coffin of John Rucker, a German born plantation owner, who still lies there. Habitats and Heritage describes this as this resting place of two men whose work embodies the very best and worst of British history.



Colin did explain that lockdown had increased greatly the interest and support of local people for this charity, which also aims to link green spaces allowing wildlife to transit between them. Not sure how they are supposed to cross the A3 between Wimbledon Common and Richmond Park, perhaps they will put a bit of piping under the road. The next time you're in a cemetery and notice a spruced-up monument surrounded by hedgehogs and butterflies, you will know this charity has been at work. Our own Welsh wizard, Hywel Thomas, gave the vote of thanks and the speaker was warmly applauded.

WALK FROM THE DUKE'S HEAD, TADWORTH - 5TH JULY 2022

Another bright day greeted our thirteen Probus walkers, with just one hitch as the car park to our chosen pub, The Duke's Head, was securely locked at both entrances. The staff inside the pub had no keys, and the cleaner that turned up was keyless also, but she did assure us that the keyholder was usually there around 9.00 am, but not on this day. We had to squeeze our cars directly in front of the pub leaving just the doorway clear, and we set off a little late at 10.30a.m., crossing the road on to Banstead Common. Once on the Common a few factoids were given out, mainly set in the late 19th century, but history tells us that there was an evil Lord who attempted to buy up all the commoners' rights in one hit. He did partially succeed, stripping some of the topsoil which was sold to construct the Oval cricket ground. There were a few commoners that resisted his advances, and the whole thing ended up in Court for about fourteen years, until luckily for us, the evil Lord went broke and that was the end of his quest. There is also on one side of the Common a round topped mill without sails; they fell off in the early 20th century. We never did spot this mill, either it had shrunk over the years or the trees surrounding it had grown taller. After the factoids, the walk set off in earnest, crossing the open ground and into the woods beyond. Strangely enough the whole Common had very few walkers, just the odd dog owner, but we were fully armed with our old friend Pepper the sheepdog keeping us all in order.

There is a number one rule for navigators, and that is to keep an open mind about whether you are on the right track. In this case, our leader felt he had somehow lost his way, but was still fairly sure of our location, but in this modern age everyone has a smartphone and consulting Mike Spraggs' mobile we found we were only about a quarter of a mile from the pub. Even so, our leader refused to accept this to be the fact and insisted on pointing us in the completely wrong direction. More 'phones were consulted, all telling the same story.. As it turned out they were, in fact, completely right, so our leader had to consume several large chunks of humble pie and we were back at the pub within 15 minutes, dead on time at midday. On arriving at the pub, we shifted our cars round to the official car park, and then we all sat down to an excellent meal with extremely generous portions. We were joined by two Probus diners.



FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 2 August: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Withies Inn, Compton, GU3 1JA
Organiser: Mike Fraser

Tuesday 16 August: Club Lunch, No speaker

Tuesday 6 September: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Mill, Farnham Road, Elstead GU8 6LE
Organiser: Keith McArthur