



Pro-Biz



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

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News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

August 2022

LUNCH TALK ON “POLICING THE POLICE” by ROBIN FIELD-SMITH



After university Robin served in the Royal Army Educational Corps from 1971 until retiring in 2000. From 2000 to 2009 he served with H.M. Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC, which since 2017 extends to fire and rescue services with the new acronym HMICFRS) which has statutory responsibility for the inspection of police forces in England and Wales. The first inspectors were appointed in 1856 and current statutory functions are contained in the Police Act 1996 and related legislation. However, its principal statutory functions are unchanged since its establishment in 1856, namely, to assess and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of police forces in England and Wales. HMIC independently assess police forces and policing and publishes information to allow the public to compare the performance of their force against others. Topics that could be covered range from investigating domestic abuse to advancement of equality and diversity in policing. Whilst the majority of police officers do an outstanding job in demanding situations, the model on which British policing is founded - that of public confidence and consent - has been severely challenged in recent times. The vote of thanks given by Keith McArthur was followed by warm applause for the speaker.

WALK FROM THE WITHIES INN, COMPTON – 2nd AUGUST 2022

Our eleven strong squad met up at The Withies Inn for the walk in and around the village of Compton, Surrey, just off the A3 a few miles south of Guildford. A warm welcome was extended to Rob and Jo Heath who were joining us for the first time. With Sue and Mike’s dog Pepper in tow we set off towards Compton Common, passing through a dense woodland. Our



route was impeded by fallen trees causing us a few diversions, however, a smile came to our faces when we came across a home-made swing suspended from branches which Alice found hard to resist trying out. Emerging from the wood, we took a short diversion to the Watts Gallery and had a brief spell of retail therapy in the Gallery’s upmarket shop. We then retraced our steps and headed for the village of Compton but first a second stop was made into Watts Chapel and Mausoleum. This Grade 1 listed Arts and Crafts masterpiece was designed by Mary Watts in the late 19th century and is well worth a visit. After a brief tour of the Chapel grounds, we made our way back to Compton village passing a number of unique and interesting properties. Our third and final diversion took us into the 10th century church of St. Nicholas constructed using stone, flint, and chalk. Whilst inside the quaint church we were invited to take a pew by a church warden who kindly gave us an informative talk on the Church’s history and its contents. Leaving the church we made our way back to The Withies Inn where we were joined by six other members for an enjoyable lunch all seated outside in glorious sunshine.

25 YEARS LAPEL PIN PRESENTATION



Phil Shepherd received his 25 year membership lapel pin from our Chairman Eric Eustance at July's lunch.

Well done Phil!



REMEMBERING TONY COOKE 1929-2022

Antony Simon Plowright-Cooke (Tony) was born in 1929 on the family farm near Spalding, Lincs. He was educated at King's Cathedral GS in Peterborough. Called for military service in 1947, he trained as tank crew with the Royal Armoured Tank Corps at Catterick, was posted to the 13th/18th Royal Hussars cavalry regiment stationed at Benghazi where he engaged in long range desert patrols deep into the Sahara. After that Tony joined a fruit broker in the original Covent Garden and worked for BBC TV in the evenings. During this time Tony met and married Jill and they had two sons. In the mid-1960s Tony founded wine importing businesses which he sold whilst recuperating after a serious spinal operation. He then joined Unibond as a Sales Manager and later he and Jill bought a veterinary instrument business which was later sold to a conglomerate. After an early retirement Tony joined Probus in April 1996. Tony took the Chair for the Club's 30th anniversary. Jill passed away in 2021. Our sympathies go to Tony and Jill's family.

PETER TURNER - remembered by Chris Oprey

Peter Turner, Probian par excellence, BMW aficionado and bon viveur, has died aged 90 after a short illness. Peter was a local boy proud of his family connection with market gardening, which no doubt accounted for his green fingers and immaculate garden. After leaving The Mall School, he sought to skill himself for his future career in banking. As a result, his handwriting was copperplate and his understanding of finance led him to a lifelong and successful interest in the Stock Market. He then embarked on a long career at Nat West- forty four years.

He joined the Club in 1992, bringing with him the same commitment and loyalty he had always shown. He was swiftly drafted on to our nascent Social Activities Committee where he remained until recently. His responsibilities were many and his ideas creative. He devised many staples of our club diet including pub lunches- without the walking. After-lunch speakers were his forte and reflected his interests from Hampton Court to Space exploration. He was stickler for protocol at the many lunches he organised as many restaurant managers found out to their benefit. Peter enjoyed good food and wine and the occasional Single Malt Scotch. He made sure others did the same. For Peter, Probus was a lifestyle. He enjoyed the craic and comradeship and more than paid his way with his hard work and devotion to the club's administration. He was of course elected Chairman but also given Life Membership by his peers as a sign of their appreciation. He had plans to write a history of the Club in his next retirement. He would have given Gibbon a close run.

Peter will be missed by all who knew him. We send our condolences to Joy and his family.

FUTURE EVENTS

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

Organiser: Keith McArthur

Saturday 10 September: Thames River cruise from Westminster to Hampton Court

Tuesday 20 September: Club Lunch, speaker Alan Jones, "Tales of a Roving Reporter"
