



Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 260 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus September 2022

ALL ABOARD! THAMES RIVER CRUISE SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER



The weather was fair as our party of twenty-two jolly sailors set sail from Westminster Pier on the Connaught for our cruise up to Hampton Court. The Connaught was built by Salter Steamers of Oxford in 1911 and restored ten years ago and is currently owned by Colliers Launches of Twickenham.

The skipper kept us amused with his colourful commentary, pointing out various

luxury “affordable” apartments along the river. He also gave an informative commentary on things of note along the cruise. We saw a helicopter land as we passed Battersea Heliport. The Great River Race was due to take place but due to the sad events that week this was replaced with a Memorial River Procession. The river was due to be closed for this event so our boat had to be clear of the area before this happened.

The boat called in at Kew and Richmond landing stages and sailed through Richmond and Teddington Locks before arriving at Hampton Court after a three and a half-hour trip. We all saw things we didn't know were there. We had a very enjoyable time, and the weather was very kind to us.

WALK FROM THE MILL, ELSTEAD – 6th SEPTEMBER 2022

Early September and we can say the hot summer is well and truly over. After two nights of thunder storms our walk day promised more of the same. Clouds threatened all round as we arrived at the Mill, but there was the odd streak of sunshine to give us hope. Our 10a.m. start time was delayed a bit as Malcolm and Marilyn O'Connor fought it out between themselves and the Satnav and after a torturous route finally came into view. Boots, hats and waterproofs at the ready and we were off, crossing the road and over the double bridge into Elstead village. This was the most hairy part of the trip as each end of the bridges seems to be missing a pavement which made it a dash and hope for our eight



walkers. All safely across and up the hill onto the most messy horse field you've ever seen. Great place for growing roses. Factoids given out about the Elstead area, mostly about its carrot growing expertise in the sandy soil which abounds in the area and the coming of the railway in the mid-nineteenth century allowing a swift daily delivery to Covent Garden. The sandy soil also helped us as it had drained nicely, so no squidgy mud underfoot.

Passing through an Army training area, which warned of sudden on-rushes of fighting men with bayonets fixed, we were relieved to find that help was at hand as Marilyn had a packet of plasters in her bag should any of us be run through. Various dried-up ponds on the heathland were passed as the welcome rain had not made much of an impression on them. A swift right turn set us on an elevated path back towards the Mill, with one eye on the route and the other on the gathering storm, which very kindly held off as we arrived back completely unscathed, meeting eight diners in the Cromwell Room of the Mill. The whole place is well worth a look, as it's on three floors with the original water wheel still turning and other bits of mill equipment in place. Once we were all seated the heavens opened and down came the rain, but by then it was not much of a concern to us.

IN MEMORIAM: RAY LYNCH – *an appreciation by Keith Willcocks*



Ray Lynch joined Probus in June 1998 and soon became involved in the administration of the club, a situation that continued until earlier this year. During that time, he was a member of both Executive and SAC committees as well as serving as Deputy Chairman and then Chairman of the

club, SAC chairman and, for many years, editor of Pro-Biz. He was an active, highly respected and popular member of our club and will be sorely missed.

Immediately after National Service, during which he served in the RAF, Ray was employed by The Worshipful Company of Drapers, one of the larger City Livery Companies, and remained with them until his retirement. During this time Ray was made a Freeman of The City of London. He was very tempted but, in the end, did not exercise his right to drive sheep over London Bridge.

In recent years Ray met and married Julie Stevenson, (shown together on their wedding day), and they had a very happy few years together. I am sure the whole club extend their thoughts and sympathies to Julie, and to Ray's children from his first marriage - Elaine, Adrian and Stephanie.

Some twenty members and their wives attended Ray's funeral on Tuesday 13th September.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 4 October: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Bell, Bell Lane, Fetcham KT22 9ND
Organiser: Ian Macrae

Tuesday 20 September: Club Lunch, speaker Rob McRae-Adams, "Hampton and Hampton Hill
Voluntary Care - Post Covid"

Tuesday 1 November: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Black Horse, 425 Oldfield Lane, Greenford UB6 0AS
Organiser: Keith McArthur