



Pro-Biz



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WALK IN THE SURREY HILLS TO THE BELL, FETCHAM - 4th OCTOBER 2022



Our group was small but select, reduced by many regulars vacationing abroad. Numbers had been further reduced by one of our walking stalwarts, Eric Eustance, losing a battle with a kitchen knife and some vegetables; the result was a win for the knife and a trip to A&E for Eric, who is now thankfully much improved. This elite group assembled on schedule by the entrance to the popular schools' group venue, Bockett's Farm. We were soon in a true English idyll with warm sunny weather, farmland, gamekeepers' cottages, hedgerows, and woodlands and only the distant faint rumble of traffic in the Mole Valley below.

After a slight hiccup when we thought we'd mislaid one of our walkers, soon recovered, and after a brief look at the working sawmill in Norbury Park we paused about halfway at the Viewpoint above the valley. Although our stand-in leader Ian Macrae's attempts fell short of Keith McArthur's high bar for factoid interest and quality, we did get some good information on the grand manor houses visible below. Hickleham Hall was a listed building but had suffered the fate of conversion into apartments; Juniper Hall had been variously a pub, the property of Baron Bishop, inhabited by the Zouche family, the Australian armed forces prior to D-Day and was now a National Trust centre for field studies; Cherkley Court has an exotic history being once the property of Lord Beaverbrook, the newspaper magnate and wartime Minister for Aircraft Production, who had welcomed illustrious guests including Winston Churchill and the great and good of the 1930s and 40s, and more recently has been a place of contentious planning applications for conversion into an hotel and golf course.

Our walk ended at The Bell where we were joined by our dining friends and a welcoming meal in comfortable surroundings.

LUNCH TALK: TALES OF A ROVING REPORTER



At our September luncheon we welcomed Alan Jones, once described in his own words as a “raving not roving reporter”.

In fact, Alan’s accounts of his adventures firmly identified his “roving” credentials, as they involved reporting in the south and west of this country, of particular resonance for our members.

Alan also gained a sympathetic ear from his listeners in his recollections of technical difficulties suffered in his projects: some of these were humorous, involving nudist incidents and encounters with eccentric zookeepers on the Isle of Wight, others were tragic such as when he had to cover a disastrous explosion on a huge US battleship off the coast.

Alan told us about his earliest recruitment experience, being told he had “a face for radio”.

The consensus of our members was that actually he had a voice for an audience, and he received a well-deserved ovation.



FUTURE EVENTS

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

Organiser: Keith McArthur

Tuesday 15 November: Club Luncheon: Paul Leonard FRPSL “Stamp Collecting- Forensics and Your Hidden Treasures”

Tuesday 6 December: Walk/Pub Lunch: Organiser: Keith McArthur

PLEASE NOTE: THE TOWN WHARF PUB IN ISLEWORTH WHICH HAS BEEN LISTED IN OUR DIARY OF EVENTS FOR THIS WALK APPEARS TO HAVE CLOSED ITS DOORS FOR AN INDEFINITE PERIOD. THEY MUST HAVE HEARD WE WERE COMING.

KEITH WILL CONFIRM A REVISED WALK/PUB VENUE.

Tuesday 20 December: Club Christmas Luncheon