



Pro-Biz



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

Issue No 262 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus November 2022

SEPTEMBER IN FRANCE



It was a small but enthusiastic group of seventeen who met at St James Church Hampton Hill ready for our trip to Provence. We were able to spread out in our luxurious fifty-seater coach, as we headed down to Folkstone.

After an easy trip by tunnel and motorway and despite heavy rain, we reached the outskirts of Paris in no time, but then spent over an hour finding our way past streets blocked by demonstrators. However, our driver Doug's skills enabled him to drop us right at our hotel door. He then left us and drove the coach with our main luggage to our destination in Nimes, and we had a nice night in Paris.

Next day, we had a speedy comfortable first-class ride on the TGV, arriving in Nimes for lunch. We had fine weather with sunshine all week. We looked around Nimes with its marvellous Arena.

An excellent tour guide took us to the Pont du Gard Roman aqueduct and to Avignon, where we saw the famous Palais de Papes. We also spent days in Arles, Aix-en-Provence and Isle-sur-La-Sorgue, a



delightful village with antique shops and canals. Wherever possible we saved our legs by taking the little mini-tour trains.

We came back on the TGV and stopped in Arras where we visited the famous Vimy Ridge war cemetery.

Many thanks to Doug, who was a mine of information. Thanks to Steve Mitchell for the idea of using a mixture of train and coach for making our journeys so agreeable. Finally, thanks to a great group.

WALK ALONG GRAND UNION CANAL & BRENT RIVER - BOSTON MANOR TO THE RAILWAY HOTEL GREENFORD – 1st NOVEMBER 2022

Ten Probus walkers met at Sainsbury's bus stop and set off to Hounslow East on the 111, picking up the tube to Boston Manor. Though it had been raining heavily, as we arrived at Boston Manor the rain held off. It was a short walk from the station through the houses down to the Grand Union canal, where we picked up the Capital Ring path, which is a green corridor through urban and industrial landscape. Factoids were read out regarding the canal, which runs from London to Birmingham, a distance of 145 miles. It opened in 1805 and had a name change in 1929 from the Grand Junction canal to its present day name of Grand Union. Within half a mile we came across Hanwell Flight of 6 locks, which takes the canal up 53ft. At the first lock we branched off the canal on to the Brent River, and the path ducks under a main road which was liable to flooding. Martin Riddell was sent to investigate as he had the longest boots, and sure enough it was flooded under the bridge so it was up and over in the dry for us, picking up the path on the far side. Soon after we came across the Wharncliffe Viaduct, another extravaganza from Brunel, built in 1838. It is a massive brick viaduct which takes the Great Western Railway, and is still going strong after all this time. After passing under the viaduct we made our way into Brent Lodge park, where the toilet facilities were taken advantage of, and this route avoided even more flooding down by the river. Passing St Mary's Church it was then downhill again to re-join the river path. After criss-crossing the river a few times we were on to Brent Valley golf course, and well on our way to Greenford. Martin's phone came in very handy as it guided us through housing estates, under the A40, and on to the Railway Hotel.

Approaching the pub with about 10 yards to go the heavens reopened, but we made it inside with just a few spots of rain hitting us, where we met four diners



for lunch. Luckily three cars were available for the return journey, so all walkers were accommodated which saved us a complicated return by overground and underground.

LUNCH TALK ON “LOCAL VOLUNTARY CARE – POST COVID” by ROB McRAE-ADAMS

Rob is CEO of the Greenwood Community Centre, set up in in 1974 to support socially-isolated people in Hampton and Hampton Hill, either by reason of age, infirmity and/or with mobility issues. Rob explained Funding for the Centre's range of activities since 1992 has been through the Hampton Fund, when this replaced the original Hampton Fuel Allotment Charity. There was a general nodding of heads when Rob talked about the distinctive green 'leaf' logo on the buses, a familiar sight in the locality. What did come as a surprise was the wide range of services they offered as an outreach to those in need, for example getting food supplies to those with mobility issues. This was particularly evident during the pandemic: not only did the Centre serve as a vaccination facility, it did so on behalf of three local surgeries, whilst maintaining its other services through Zoom, where possible. Centre-based activities include Mens' and Women's Groups, a Book Club, Counselling and a number of healthy initiatives, such as Pilates, Yoga and even a thriving Dance Class run by the Laureen Haith School of Dance, not just for the elderly, but the youngsters are included. Rob and his team of volunteers deserved the applause which ended his talk.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 6 December: Walk/Pub Lunch: ***PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF PUB VENUE***
The Teddington Arms, 38 High Street Teddington, TW11 8EW.
Organiser: Keith McArthur

Tuesday 20 December: Club Christmas Luncheon