



Pro-Biz



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**WALK/PUB LUNCH, THE RAMBLER'S REST, COULSDON AND BANSTEAD WOODS
TUESDAY 1st APRIL**



We were thirteen, (plus Pepper) meeting at the pub, and as we left, a beautiful morning turned into a perfect walking day. Banstead Woods, once a medieval deer park owned by the Kings Edward, I and II, had been gifted by Henry VIII to Katharine of Aragon. It's now a 230 acre nature reserve and Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It's a popular walking route, and Pepper met a number of interesting fellow canines.

The walk was firm underfoot, and boasted a wealth of varied trees: hornbeams, horse chestnuts, rowans and an ancient apple orchard.

Unusual factoids consisted of a search for Narnia themed wood carvings enroute; the Lion and the Wardrobe were identified, but the Witch was conspicuous by her absence; sorry C.S. Lewis.... At the pub early, and the full party, now twenty in number, enjoyed a fine meal.



LUNCH TALK ON "ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION" by JON CHAPMAN



Jon and his colleague Ian Chappell treated us to a fascinating insight into the vital work of the RNLI, focusing on our own local stretch of the Thames. Historically, the UK's maritime fleets suffered heavy losses around our coasts: this was recognised by Isle of Man resident Sir William Hillary in the early 1800s. Lacking government support, he got some thirty or so of the great and good together in the London Tavern in Bishopsgate Street, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and William Wilberforce, to inaugurate the charity as the Royal National Institution for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck which would be registered in 1824 and renamed The Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1854.

RNLI now numbers 238 stations nationwide, all publicly-supported and needing some £170-180M p.a. to operate.

Teddington is the smallest of the RNLI's four Thames stations (the others being Chiswick, Tower and Gravesend); its unique 'half-lock' location, and the need to manage the limitations created by the tidal "four-hour window", call for highly-tuned planning. Modern aides such as smartphones and pagers help the volunteers achieve impressive response times; Jon demonstrated this by donning his complex personal protective equipment (including a dry suit and lifejacket), within one minute, and explained the necessity of reaching a boat launch target of five to seven minutes. This level of efficiency is needed when the station has to cope with the demands of a very busy stretch of the Thames, including Kingston and its Bridge; approximately 70% of their 'shouts' can be dealing with vulnerable individuals on bridges or near the water.

Jon also highlighted the need for fast response when dealing with swimmers, often young people, who underestimate their ability to cope with cold river water, resulting in the loss of limb control and potential cardiac arrest.

The whole presentation was a tribute to these modest individuals, and to the important role they play.



FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 6th MAY: Walk & Pub Lunch – The Lass of Richmond Hill, Queens Road Richmond TW10 6JJ

TUESDAY 13th MAY: Tour of the Oval Cricket Ground- [*SEE FLYER FOR DETAILS*](#)

TUESDAY 20th MAY: Club Luncheon, speaker Alan Jones: "Why Diets Fail"
