



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - February 2023

Our Speaker on 23rd February will be Rosemary Dymond and her subject is
"Rochester City".

Lunch is Hunter's Chicken Stew or Fish and Chips followed by Sticky toffee pudding

Chairman's Welcome

Enjoying my walk in the Sun with our dog this morning I was thinking about my year so far as Chairman and what a lovely experience it has been. The Wilmington fair in August was very enjoyable as was the visit to Bletchley Park and the Chairman's special dinner and dance in October. We had an excellent Christmas lunch in December; Bunny racing in February and we still have lots more to look forward to.

We are now nine months in to my chairmanship of the club and have so far raised over £2,300 for our Charity. Thank you all so much for this fantastic achievement. It is going to be odd after the AGM to not be Chairman and I wish our next Chairman, Jack Swift, all the very best. It's a very rewarding role and I would encourage at least one of you to volunteer to be Vice Chairman from May with a view to being Chairman from May 2024. You won't regret it.

Talking about the Bunny Racing, what a brilliant evening that was. Grateful thanks to Colin and Jack for organising and managing it; to Phil for being MC and for most of the amusing jokes and the team on the Bookies' table—Derek, Les, Colin and some guy called Steve. As you know we raised an incredible £254 for the charity and everyone I spoke to had a good time, with many of them winning. What a night!

What fly?

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. "What are you doing?" she asked. "Hunting flies," he replied.

"Oh, killed any?" she said.

"Yep, 3 males, 2, females, came the answer.

Intrigued, the wife asked, "How can you tell them apart?"

Husband: "3 were on a beer can and 2 were on the phone".

xxxxxxxxxxx

Actual Complaints received by Thomas Cook

We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers because they were all Spanish!

No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared.

We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning

Thanks to Ed and Jack for these contributions.



Social Committee Report

Fifty-Six were booked in for The Race night and the betting produced about £250 for the Chairman's Charity. A big thank you to all of you.

An evening at Crayford Stadium on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 full details have been circulated by email. If you are coming will you please make sure you have paid the Treasurer by next week's Lunch as payment to the Stadium is required by Friday 24th at the latest. I am afraid the money paid for your meal is not refundable.

Doors to the Stadium open at 5.15 pm with the first race at 6.18pm - please try to arrive by 5.45pm so that your meal selections can be ordered before the first race

When you arrive please tell the Doorman and the Restaurant Staff that you are part of Ian Armitt's Group.

On Wednesday, 5 April 2023 we will be holding our next Coffee Morning at The Plough, please let me know if you are planning to attend and staying for lunch.

The Annual Chairman's Dinner is booked for Friday, 14 April 2023 at the Princes Park Banqueting Suite, full details have been circulated by email. Many of you are booked in but have yet to decide on your menu choices.

We will be having a "bespoke visit" to see the workings of Cooling's Nursery, Knockholt on Wednesday, 3 May 2023, full details have been circulated.

The Annual Spring Break to Lee Wood Hotel, Buxton, Derbyshire departs on Sunday, 7 May 2023, 36 are booked in and we are all looking forward to another great holiday.

I have sent out a revised calendar for the rest of the year so you can see our plans in full, if you did not receive my email or could not open it please let me know.

Colin

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charity		2584
General Funds		63
Pending Payment:		1705
Contingency Fund		<u>2271</u>
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		6623

The Race Night raised a further £254 for the Chairman's Charity which has now reached £2584. Funds pending payment include amounts for the forthcoming 2023 Spring Break (£450), the Chairman's Dinner (£735) and the Crayford Dogs evening (£520).

Derek

Walks Information from Roy

The walk on 8 February was led by Phil Burt from The Greyhound Pub, Keston. 10 walkers joined Phil and most started the day with a very enjoyable coffee at the adjacent coffee shop. The weather was excellent being bright and sunny and a completely blue sky. The walk of about 2.5 miles took us through woods and past sites of various event which Phil was able to give much information about. We passed by the lakes and one of the houses occupied by Charles Darwin at one time. Caesar's Well, the source of the river Ravensbourne had been tidied up compared to when last seen. We returned to the pub via woodland and a slight downhill path. An excellent walk and location followed by an excellent lunch when a further six joined!

Eric Hookins will lead our next walk on 8 March 2023 and we meet at the Horse and Groom pub, Leyton Cross Rd, Wilmington, DA2 7AP and the walk will start at 10.30am. The walk is about 2.5 miles long around Dartford Heath and is fairly flat with no styles.

As with many pubs today, Eric was required to pay a deposit of £5 per person lunching.

PLEASE LET ERIC KNOW (01322 662337, eric.hookins@lineone.net) IF YOU ARE COMING AND WHETHER YOU ARE STAYING FOR LUNCH OR NOT BY 6.00PM ON MONDAY 6 MARCH 2023. THOSE WHO COMMIT TO STAY FOR LUNCH WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE £5 DEPOSIT IF THEY CANNOT ATTEND THE LUNCH FOR WHATEVER REASON.

I am sorry to be so draconian but Eric and any walk leader in the future who pays the deposit cannot be out of pocket.

DIRECTIONS As this is close to home, I don't think directions are necessary!

Roy



Pictures from the walk on 8th February around Keston ponds. The picture on the right is of the newly refurbished Caesars Well, the source of the river Ravensbourne.



Secretary's Jottings

The AGM is approaching in April and we have to think about the committee nominations. These people have said that they are interested in the following roles, but are willing to stand aside if you would like the job!

Chairman - Jack Swift
Secretary- Phil Burt
Treasurer - Derek Putman
Social secretary – Colin Verry
Walks secretary – Ed Holbrook
Speaker secretary – Andrew Dunk
Membership secretary - David Cross
Member – Clive West
Member - Steve Brown

Which means the position of Vice Chairman is still open. It normally is the position that precedes being the Chairman and so is a good way of seeing what happens on the Committee before being Chairman. Any volunteers?

It would also be nice to see 2 more members join the committee as 'members without portfolio' i.e. no particular role but giving their advice and wisdom on all matters that need it! This would bring us up to the full complement of 11 committee members. If you are interested or want to know more about the position please speak to me.

Phil

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Birthday
in February and March

David Cooper, Tony Duffield, Andrew Dunk,
Bernard Nash, Colin Verry, Paul Butler,
and Brian Chandler



Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the Membership Secretary, David Cross on 01322 226452 or e-mail:

D.cross595@btinternet.com

Speaker's Corner

Our speaker on 23rd February will be Rosemary Dymond and her subject is "Rochester City"

Our speaker on 30th March will be Mark Lewis talking about the Customs and Traditions of the City of London. Lunch on that occasion will be Slow Roasted Pork Belly or Fish & Chips

I hope you can join us for both luncheons. **AD**