



# Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

## NEWSLETTER - November 2023

Our Speaker on 30th November will be Phil Burt and his subject is:  
"On the Buses".

Lunch is Roast Tenderloin Pork in herb crust with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips followed by Spotted Dick.

### Chairman's Welcome

At our October Meeting we had fellow member Roy Freeman give us a wonderful account of his 'Doings During Lockdown'. This was a fascinating talk on how Roy and Jane coped during lockdown with walking, gardening and some fabulous model making. How Roy could possibly see those tiny figures and make them into individual characters was incredible.

I also had the pleasure of welcoming Ron Armstrong and Alf Oaks as new members and our guest this month was Paddy Cavanagh.

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 41 of us enjoyed a wonderful morning at Crayford Greyhound Track. We had a full English breakfast before trying to pick the fastest dog, some of us being more successful than others! Thank you to Ian Armitt for organising this fabulous event.

On Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November I had the privilege of laying a poppy wreath at the Wilmington war memorial on behalf of the club. (See picture on page 3)

On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November we had a quiz night with the questions set by Ann McMillan, it was lovely to see so many guests attended resulting in 47 people taking part. At the interval we enjoyed a large plate of fish and chips and the winning team were Phil and Pat Burt's table with each team member winning a winners cup.

Jack

### Christmas Jokes

**What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? He got 25 days!**

What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? Freeze a jolly good fellow!

**What do you get if you cross Santa with a duck? A Christmas Quacker!**

What is the best Christmas present in the world? A broken drum, you just can't beat it!

**Why was the snowman looking through the carrots? He was picking his nose!**

What did Adam say the day before Christmas? "It's Christmas, Eve!"

The Chairman's Charities are:



## **Social Committee Report**

Our Trip to the Greyhound was really enjoyed by all. We will be planning another for next year.

Our Quiz Night went very well, the questions were taxing but very enjoyable. The Fish & Chips were excellent. Our special thanks to Ann McMillan for being our "Quiz Mistress" for the night. We will plan another in the future.

We have our first coffee morning of the new year booked for Wednesday, 10 January 2024, please let me know if you are coming.

Also we are planning a "Bunnies" race night for Friday, 23 February 2024, Steve & Keith will be letting you all know about this shortly.

As the trip to Crayford Greyhounds was so successful we are investigating going again. This time an evening meeting, possibly on Tuesday, 26 March 2024, we will keep you posted.

We have also booked a "Cockney Night" at Whiteoak which will be entertainment by "Cockney Knights" in the style of "Chas & Dave" with a "Pie & Mash" supper, this will be on Saturday, 30 March 2024. More information in the New Year.

Our Chairman's Dinner next year we have rebooked Princes Park on Friday, 19 April 2024. Our entertainer will be Sarah Barker as she was so enjoyed by all last time.

Our Spring Break 2024 is to Great Yarmouth - The Imperial Hotel is booked, and so far we have 37 members and friends/partners going. If anyone else would like to join us please let me know before Christmas.

Finally and most importantly our Christmas Lunch which is on Monday, 4 December 2023 at Whiteoak, 49 have booked and I am sorry that I cannot accept any more as the caterer has a deadline which is before you all receive this. We will be holding a Raffle in aid of the Chairman's Charity and any prizes will be gratefully received. Don't forget that there will be the usual competition for the most "Christmassy" tie or ladies hat.

Have a very Merry Christmas if I don't see you before.

**Colin**



**A Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New  
Year to you all**

## **Birthdays**

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Birthday in  
November and December

**John Longstaff, Peter Marsh, Derek Putman,  
Maurice Tilley, Clive West, Michael Iveson,  
Gwyn Pritchard, Les Robus and John Strachen**



## Walks Information from Roy

The walk on 8 November was to be led by Andrew Dunk from the Ship Inn, Cobham. The weather gods had different ideas however and the rain and wind forced the cancellation of the walk. This was a great shame as this was the last walk of the year marred as it has been by several walks cancellations due to the weather. However, the lunch was supported by 14 and much enjoyed, so instead of walking there was much talking! Thank you, Andrew, although no walk, an enjoyable event.

As usual, we do not have walks in December and January due to the unpredictability of the weather. It does, however, seem that the weather may yet be the reason for not having walks in other months if this year's problems are repeated! Let us hope that things improve!

For your diaries therefore, our next walk will be on 14 February 2024, details to follow in January's Newsletter.

My thanks go to the walk leaders who led or tried to lead walks this year. Apart from sorting out the actual walk, the work to make the arrangements with the inn or pub takes time and effort, so my grateful thanks for their efforts.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year with, hopefully, more walking.

**Roy**



Our Chairman—Jack Swift laying a wreath on behalf of Wilmington Axstane Probus Club at the Wilmington Memorial on Sunday 12th November

## The Dog's Breakfast

There I was, shouting "Come on number 6". But it was no good, I think the number 6 dog was deaf. Speaking as someone who has always been a loser when gambling, I have to report that after joining the club's breakfast outing at Crayford Dogs, my loser record is still intact. I did manage to escape with the shirt still on my back but it was touch and go. OK, maybe I exaggerate. Even though my losses hurt they were actually very minor and the hearty breakfast and great company more than made up for the disappointing 'investments'. The races added that extra dimension of jeopardy to the proceedings and our thanks go to Ian for organising such an enjoyable and fun event.

**Joe Irwin**

## The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		2668
General Funds		171
Pending Payment:		3890
Contingency Fund		1954
<b>Balance held in Cash or in Bank</b>		<b>8683</b>

The Chairman's Charities have benefited recently from Christmas greetings donations and a surplus from the Crayford Dogs event.

Funds pending payment include amounts for the Christmas Lunch (£990) and The 2024 Spring Break (£2900).

## Secretary's Jottings

After the last couple of social events we've found that there seems to be problem about payment and numbers. We are losing money by having to pay to cater for people that do not turn up at the event, having indicated that they would. So, a reminder gentlemen about the 'booking procedure' for various events.

Monthly luncheon - members, with the exception of Honorary and Life members, must contact the secretary (Phil) by 12.00 noon on the Tuesday immediately before the luncheon if they are **NOT** attending, otherwise they will be responsible for the cost of the lunch. Also, if they require the alternative lunch or are bringing guests that is the cut off time.

### Other social events.

When, after signing the 'board' to say you are attending a social event, you find you cannot attend, please let the organiser know as soon as possible. Also, all payments for these events must be made a week before the event either by BACS, card payment, cash or cheque please.

**Phil**

## Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the temporary Membership Secretary, Ed Holbrook on 01322 863130 or e-mail: [Ed.holbrook@icloud.com](mailto:Ed.holbrook@icloud.com)

## Speaker's Corner

Our speaker on 30th November is our Phil Burt and his subject is "On the buses".

Our speaker on 25th January is Don Cockrill MBE and his subject is "The Ever Given and the Suez Canal".

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