



# Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

## NEWSLETTER - March 2023

Our Speaker on 30th March will be Mark Lewis and his subject is  
"Customs & Traditions of the City of London".

Lunch is Slow roasted Pork Belly or Fish and Chips followed by Apple & Blackberry Pie

### Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to this months luncheon and the end of what has been a very sad month. Earlier this month we lost Royston Durbidge, one of the founding members of our club. Funeral arrangement have been confirmed.

Another equally sad piece of news is that John Strachan's wife Angela passed away on 18th March at home with John. I hadn't known Angela for long but I was talking with her at the Wilmington Market on the 16th so the news was a great shock to me. I'm sure in due course an invitation to the funeral will be sent out and in the meantime let's send our best wishes to John.

The coming few weeks are going to cheer us up a little. We have Greyhound racing on 28th March so by the time you receive this Newsletter all 28 of us will be celebrating our winnings, or not.

On 14th April we will be eating and dancing at the Annual Chairman's Dinner and in early May, 26 of us are going to see the early stages of plant growth at Cooling's Nursery. We will let you know what we discover, next time.

As you know, the next Luncheon on 27th April is our AGM and my last meeting as Chairman. We are expecting a representative from Battersea to join us for lunch and to say a few words about the charity. They may even bring a "sample" dog with them, which could be fun! Hope you will be there.

**Steve Brown**

### Rib Ticklers

I was visiting Jimmy and I noticed there was a "Get well soon" card on his mantelpiece.

"Have you been ill? I asked.

"No" he replied. "I'm just not connected to the water mains".

The owner of the local stables thought he'd get with the times and started ordering oats and hay for the horses on Amazon. He's not doing it again. Two days later they asked him for feedback!

I have no idea if acupuncture does much good but I'm sure it's not pointless.

I'm quite easy going compared to most husbands. But when my wife insisted I stop imitating flamingos ... Well I had to put my foot down!

Did you hear about the man who built a car out of washing machine parts? He took it out for a spin!



## Social Committee Report

An evening at Crayford Stadium on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 full details have been circulated by email and we have 28 booked in to go.

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.

Our Coffee Morning at The Plough has been cancelled so all members can attend Royston Durbidge's funeral.

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 and so far, 26 have booked in.

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. Final payment is required by 26th April and those booked will be contacted directly. We still have vacancies if you wish to go.

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		2652
General Funds		140
Pending Payment:		5511
Contingency Fund		<u>2271</u>
<b>Balance held in Cash or in Bank</b>		<b>10574</b>

The Chairman's Charity now stands at £2652. Funds pending payment include amounts for the forthcoming 2023 Spring Break (£3780), the Chairman's Dinner (£1330), the Crayford Dogs evening (£205), the Coolings Outing (£156) and the Faversham Hop Festival (£40).

**Derek**

## Walks Information from Roy

Although Eric had arranged a good walk over Dartford Heath from the Horse and Groom pub, the weather unfortunately had other ideas and snow, sleet and rain made the walk very slippery and it was called off. However, 18 arrived for lunch at the pub and all enjoyed a very good meal with plenty of chat and the odd drink or so! Thanks Eric for organising the event and perhaps we will enjoy the walk later in the year.

Andrew Dunk leads the walk on 12 April from the Lullingstone Visitor Centre (MR 527638, what3words (clever.curiosity.sends), postcode DA4 0JF). The walk is about 2.4 miles long without styles or gates and he describes it as “undulating” with one very short steep section, but it provides good views over the Darenth Valley and the adjacent golf course. The walk starts at 10.30 but coffee etc is available at the café in the Visitor Centre where toilets may also be found. There is a charge for parking of £1.70 payable in cash (but no change given) or via the PayByPhone app.

Lunch has been arranged at the Malt Shovel Inn, Eynsford,(what3words taking.wipe.beside), postcode DA4 0ER). Andrew needs to know those walking and those lunching well before. ***IF LUNCHING PLEASE CONSULT THE INN’S WEBSITE, themaltshoveleynsford.co.uk, TO CHOOSE YOUR MEAL & ADVISE ANDREW BY 6.00 PM FRIDAY, 7 APRIL.*** If walking only, please let Andrew know by 6.00 pm on Monday 10 April.

Let us hope that the weather will be kinder for this walk and we can enjoy some fresh air!

**DIRECTIONS** Take the A225, Dartford/Hawley Rd south to the Farningham roundabout. Turn left on to the A20 and after 0.5 miles, turn right on to the A225 SP Eynsford and Shoreham. Proceed through Eynsford after 1 mile and continue past the railway station. After another 0.5 miles turn right on to Castle Rd (Do not take the drive to the Castle if open) and follow for 0.5 miles to reach the Visitor Centre on the right after a bridge over the river Darenth.

To return to the Malt Shovel Inn, return via Castle Rd and turn left on the A225. Continue past the station and after 0.5 miles find the Inn on the right in the centre of the village. The car park is on the left of the road opposite the Inn

Roy

### Actual Complaints received by Thomas Cook

*On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food.*

*The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room.*

*I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts.*

Thanks to Jack for this contribution.

### A Note from Andrew Dunk—Speaker Secretary

As you probably all know there was a rail strike planned for the 30th March and with our speaker for the luncheon travelling by rail to Swanley, it looked like we would have no speaker.

Our “second string” stepped up and Phil Burt, who is booked to give us a talk later in the year, offered to complete the talk instead. With the strike now cancelled we can revert to the original plan but thanks to Phil for the kind offer.

## Secretary's Jottings

### Monthly luncheon

*We will be using our new card reader at the monthly luncheon, so you will be able to pay for your lunch using your debit/credit card or mobile phone!*

### AGM and committee members

*Our AGM is in April and we are still looking for two positions to be filled.*

*The Vice Chairman. This position is really only a backup should the Chairman not be able to attend a meeting so the Vice would step in for them. It is also a good preparation for being Chair at the following AGM, but it doesn't have to be!*

*The Walks secretary. This position is to organise men to become walks leaders rather than have to lead a walk every month. A report needs to be compiled and sent to Steve for entry into the newsletter, but often the leaders themselves write it, so most of the job is done for you!*

*Both jobs are fairly easy to fulfil and are a way of giving something back to the club and it's members.*

*If you need any more information please contact me.*

**Phil**

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

Paul Butler, Brian Chandler, Peter Onley,  
David Viggers and Howard Wardell



### 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](mailto:D.cross595@btinternet.com)

### Speaker's Corner

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

Our AGM is being held on the 27th April and our speaker will be from Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Name to be announced. Lunch will be Steak and Kidney Pudding.

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