



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - January 2023

Our Speaker on 26th January will be Bill McNaught and his subject is
"The Life and Times of Sir Charlie Chaplin".

Lunch is Traditional Irish Stew or Fish and Chips followed by Mixed Fruit Crumble

Chairman's Welcome

A Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all had a good Christmas. Unfortunately, this is another New Year when we have to start off with the sad news that we've lost another of our members. "Mac" McMillan sadly passed away last week. Details of the funeral have been circulated.

So we are now eight 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. The even better news is that there are two opportunities to increase this amount to nearer £3,000 if we can.

Our Social Committee have been working flat out to bring you lots of events. "Bunny Racing" on 3rd February is always loads of fun and the Chairman's Annual Dinner is set for 14th April. Both of these fun evenings help to raise funds for the charity so please come and join us.

Finally, we are running out of stories for the Newsletter. If anyone has a humorous tale to tell, either a true story or something you have heard, please let us know and we can get you published and maybe the start of a new career as an author!

Steve Brown



A New Year's Wish

On New Year's Eve, Marilyn stood up in the local pub and said that it was time to get ready. At the stroke of midnight, she wanted every husband to be standing next to the one person who made his life worth living.

Well, it was kind of embarrassing. As the clock struck - the bartender was almost crushed to death.

Lecture Tour with A Difference

On New Year's Eve, Daniel was in no shape to drive, so he sensibly left his van in the car park and walked home. As he was wobbling along, he was stopped by a policeman. 'What are you doing out here at four o'clock in the morning?' asked the police officer.

'I'm on my way to a lecture,' answered Roger.

'And who on earth, in their right mind, is going to give a lecture at this time on New Year's Eve?' enquired the constable sarcastically.

'My wife,' slurred Daniel grimly.

Social Committee Report

A Coffee morning at "The Plough" was held on Wednesday, 11 January 2023, and 23 of us met and partook of an excellent lunch. The next one is booked for Wednesday, 5 April 2023.

On Friday, 3 February 2023 we will be holding another Race Night (Bouncing Bunnies), 53 are so far booked in, the bunnies have all passed inspection and we are gearing up for another bumper event.

The Quiz Night planned for March has been postponed and replaced by an evening at Crayford Stadium on Tuesday, 28 March 2023 full details have been circulated by email.

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.

We will be having a bespoke visit to "Cooling's Nursery, Knockholt on Wednesday, 3 May 2023, full details will be circulated shortly

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		2330
General Funds		76
Pending Payment:		735
Contingency Fund		<u>2257</u>
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		5398

The Chairman's Charity fund has grown by £307 over the Christmas period to £2330. General funds are, at last, positive. Funds pending payment refers to amounts held for the 2023 Spring Break (£450) and for the forthcoming Race Night (£285).

Derek

Walks Information from Roy

Welcome back to a new year of monthly walks! Let us hope that our leaders do not have to cancel as happened in the two walks at the end of last year!

February's walk is on the 8th and will be led by Phil Burt who gives the following information.

This month's walk will be from The Greyhound Pub, Commonside, Keston BR2 6BP and will be around Ravensbourne Meadows aka Keston Ponds.

A fairly level walk some minor ups and downs, mostly solid paths and boardwalks, meander through the coppice woods and around the ponds of a lovely area with some historical and scientific interest! The walk is just over two miles with no stiles.

*Meeting for lunch at the Greyhound Pub (MR413647, what3words **powers.palace.necks**) for 12.30. There is a small carpark at the pub and some on street parking. **No coffee at the pub** but there is a coffee shop next door to pub 'Daisy Grey' (not tested) but looks nice and should be open or further along is 'Heathfields' another coffee shop/tearoom which I tried about 10 years ago and it was very nice then!*

Please let me know by 6.00pm on Monday, 6 February if you are walking or if just coming for a nice lunch.

This looks to be an exciting change of area for the walk and it would be nice to have much support for Phil as he has researched this different walk!

Roy

DIRECTIONS *Take the south to junction 4 and follow directions for the A21 to Orpington. At the next roundabout, follow A21 past Knockholt station. Continue on the A21 for approx. 4 miles to reach Locksbottom (Princess Royals University hospital on right). At the roundabout turn left on to the A232 towards Croydon. After 0.5 miles, continue ahead on A232 at the crossroads with A233. After further 0.3 miles turn left on to Commonside and follow south for 0.5 miles to reach the pub. Please note Phil's comment about parking above*

We are all very sad to hear of the loss of our friend Malcolm "Mac" McMillan who died on Monday 9th January. As a relatively new member of Probus, I didn't know Mac well, unlike many of you but to me he was always full of fun as can be seen in this pictures taken at Chairman's Summer Lunch last year and the 2021 Christmas lunch. My thanks to Ann McMillan for permission to reprint these pictures

R.I.P Mac you will be sadly missed.

SCB



Mac and Ann



Mac with Jean Jarrett and the tie!

New Year's Eve Party - Phantom Guest?

Trevor's New Year's Eve party was an annual occurrence with numerous guests arriving. During the evening, a man knocked on the door, was greeted heartily although no one knew who he was, and was led to where the drinks were, in the kitchen. He sat there happily, chatting away, for a couple of hours before a strange light dawned on his face. 'You know,' he confided to Trevor, 'I wasn't even invited to this party. I just came over to tell you that some of your guests' cars are blocking my drive.' He continued, 'My wife's been sitting out in the car waiting for me to get them moved, so that we can go out.'

A Bad Dream?

Jemima was taking an afternoon nap on New Year's Eve before the festivities. After she woke up, she confided to Max, her husband, 'I just dreamed that you gave me a diamond ring for a New Year's present. What do you think it all means?' 'Aha, you'll know tonight,' answered Max smiling broadly.

At midnight, as the New Year was chiming, Max approached Jemima and handed her a small package. Delighted and excited she opened it quickly. There in her hand rested a book entitled: 'The meaning of dreams'.

Happy New Year

Birthdays

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

Jack Swift, David Cooper, Tony Duffield

Andrew Dunk, Bernard Nash and Colin Verry



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 26th January 2023 will be Bill McNaught and his subject is "The life and Times of Sir Charlie Chaplin"

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

I hope you can join us for both luncheons.

Andrew