



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - November 2025



Our speaker on 27th November will be Cheryl Vernon who is a volunteer at FOAL farm. She will tell us something of the history of the farm and how it all came about. Lunch will be Roast Pork with Apple Sauce with Chef's choice of potatoes or Fish and Chips followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Welcome

Welcome to our November meeting. Over the years I have adopted 8 cats from various rescue centres, 4 of them from Foal Farm, I am sure that those of you who were able to join our tour in August were impressed by their care for animals of all shapes and sizes. Today we will hear more of their work and history.

My thanks to those who were at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and particularly to Phil who ensured legibility on our wreath.

Barbara and I joined the walkers for lunch on the 12th, my apologies to the walkers who were left waiting for their lunch because we ordered a starter. We live and learn.

If you are attending our Christmas lunch at the Dartford Golf Club it is on Monday 1st December. Remember that there are trophies for men's ties and women's hats. If you won last year and you haven't already handed the cup back please bring it to the lunch on the 27th.

Christmas is a very special season, while we celebrate the birth of Christ we inevitably have memories of previous years when we shared the day with those who are no longer with us. However you are spending the day this year, may you have a happy and peaceful day with fond memories of the past and a positive outlook for 2026.

Enjoy your lunch and my best wishes for a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy and solvent New Year.

David

Mixed Box of Jokes

A man phones the hospital and says: "Send help, my wife is in labour!" The nurse says: "Calm down! Is this her first child?" The man replies: "No. This is her husband."

A man tells his wife: "I've just heard our milkman has made love to every woman in this street apart from one!" His wife says: "I bet it's that old bag at number 32."

A man gets drunk in a bar with his pet giraffe until it blacks out on the floor. The man heads for the door when the barman yells: "You can't leave that lying there!" He replies: "It's not a lion it's a giraffe."

I called my local takeaway and asked: "Do you deliver?" They said: "No, just lamb, chicken pork and beef."

A man goes into a pub and says: "I'd like something tall, icy and full of gin." The landlord calls to his wife: "Mable, there's someone here to see you."



Social Committee Report

Social Lunch - Wednesday, 5 November 2025, 16 attended and bookings are made for 2026.

Christmas Lunch - Monday, 1 December 2025, Steve (SB) reports that we currently have 46 booked, all paid except one who is abroad at the moment. Steve has managed to encourage NEXT to provide raffle prizes again this year but more booze is required and CV promised two tubs of chocolates.

Top Hat - Wednesday, 17 December 2025, 19 Booked and paid for, Phil to circulate tickets in due course.

Bouncing Bunnies - Friday, 20 February 2026, The menu this year is Chicken or Fish Goujons with chips, cost is £15. Colin to send out flyer asap. Steve (SB) will keep the "board:" as he may have various others coming. We will issue the usual request for volunteers to run the evening, in the New Year.

Chairman's Dinner - Saturday, 18 April 2026 at Princes Park. More details to follow. Menus have been passed to KC so that he can make choices. David confirmed that the entertainer is booked and will play "Music" while we are dining and sing something we can "Jig" to after. Timings 7 for 7.30 finish by 10.30 latest. Meal costings to be advised when available.

Spring Break. - From Roy & Jane - see report on page three including payment detail.

Autumn Break 2026 - Colin has volunteered to investigate an all inclusive 3 or 4 night break at "Potters 5 Lakes" resort near Maldon in Essex. More news in due course.

Colin

Two more Jokes

Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He is not breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his mobile and dials 999.

"I think my friend is dead!" he yells. "What can I do?"

The operator says: "Calm down. First let's make sure he's dead."

There's a silence, then a shot. Back on the phone the guy says "OK now what?"

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A man tells his friend that his wife is one of twins.

"It must be difficult telling them apart," says the friend.

"Oh, it is", says the man. "Especially now her brother has shaved his beard off."



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

Walks Report

Seven walkers gathered at the Beefeater restaurant by the Dartford Bridge ready to start an interesting stroll through the whole new estate and business units that have sprung up over the last few years. We were blessed with a beautiful day with lovely sunshine! The pathways took us around the lakes, through housing estates and we were able to see glimpses of the huge Amazon fulfilment centre, that one day we will get into! It was lovely to see Richard Wells with us for the first time! After the 1.75 mile walk, about 9 members and spouses had a cheap, but nice lunch taken at a speed that matched our walking!

The next walk will be on January 14th, the location will be notified later on, so please keep the date free in your diary!

Phil

How many mystery writers does it take to screw in a lightbulb? Two—one to screw it almost all the way in and the other to give it a surprising twist at the end!

Birthdays

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

John Longstaff, Peter Marsh, Les Robus,
Derek Putman, Gwyn Pritchard, Maurice Tilley,
David Rimmer, John Strachan, and Clive West



The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

Christmas Lunch	£ 1,638.00
Chairman's Charity (1)	£ 2,018.22
Spring Break (2)	£ 1,630.00
Contingency Fund	£ 1,700.00
General Fund	£ 1,014.53
Amount in Bank	£ 8,000.75

(1) Figure includes £419 Xmas Card donations

(2) Spring break: £2,050 less Hotel deposits of £420 is £1,630

Ian

SPRING BREAK 2026—Update

The good news is that we now have 41 members, partners and others going on the Break. However there is still time for more to join. Please contact Roy on aroyfreeman@btopenworld.com for further information.

Just at Christmas time, the less good news for those booked on the Break is that it is nearly time to pay the balance of the cost. A letter will be given to all at the November lunch meeting asking for payment before 16 January 2026. This date is set in stone and all payments must be sent to Ian Armitt on or before this date. PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE. Bank transfer to the club's account, Wilmington Axstane Probus Club, a/c 81258052, sort code 40-19-04 is the preferred method of payment or a cheque made out to the club sent to reach Ian by the date above. For those not at the meeting, the letter will be sent to them.

Work continues to arrange the days out whilst at Littlecote House Hotel, some of which, if we can agree dates etc look very interesting.

Jane and Roy Freeman

Lunch on 28th November will be Roast Pork with Apple Sauce or Fish and Chips

The next Lunch will be the Chairman's Christmas Lunch on 1st December

Speaker's Report

This month we have Cheryl Vernon from Foal Farm telling us the story of how it all came about from small start with one animal to the large concern it is now. FOAL farm has been rescuing and rehoming neglected animals in and around Kent for more than sixty years.

Our Speaker in January will be Karen Emery speaking on the subject of Lancelot Brown— and the Capability of the English Landscape. The well known yet enigmatic 17th Century landscape designer known as 'Capability' Brown was involved in over 200 garden projects, leaving a legacy described as typical English landscape. The story of the development of his style as well as the controversies surrounding it are described, no doubt arousing much discussion - was he a Visionary or a Vandal?

Steve