



Surrey Heath Probus Club

Summer Newsletter
2010



Our New President

Eddie Hardy was elected President of Surrey Heath Probus Club for the year 2010 – 2011.

Eddie was born in Derbyshire (birthplace of such luminaries as John Flamsteed, 1st Astronomer Royal, Florence Nightingale and, of course, Stan Oakes) and attended Ashby de la Zouch Grammar School. On leaving school he worked at Bass Worthington, served in the RAF and later joined Yorkshire Tea where he was Director and General Manager until he retired a few years ago.

As a schoolboy Eddie was spotted as a talented athlete continuing his sporting activities into adult life with Derby & County Athletic Club. He ran middle and long distance and in 1951-56 represented England in cross-country events. He competed with athletes such as Frank Sando and Gordon Pirie.

Eddie is frequently accompanied on Probus trips by his friend Marian and together they will be on our Chester trip at the end of August.

A Message from the President

Firstly may I thank members of last year's committee for their sterling work in organising lunches, speakers and outings; it was a privilege to sit at the feet of Roger Whichelow, Bruce Hardacre and their committees from whom I learnt a lot.

To our present committee I welcome David Leney for another stint as Vice-President and David Webster who has taken over the task of finding speakers. He will have a difficult task of following in the footsteps of the late John Ford who did this job magnificently right up to his death. Bob Shearman will be our Minute Secretary and Chris Marks will have general duties.

In looking forward I do hope that members will make every effort to attend lunches and I give a gentle reminder that members are expected to attend a minimum of 6 lunches each year.

We also need to have a wider attendance on our outings and I extend an invitation to all members to make suggestions for outings and, indeed, if anyone has heard or knows of good speakers then please let David Webster know.

I wish you all a happy and healthy Probus year.

Your New Committee



Standing: - Mike Duckworth, Paul Roberts, Bruce Hardacre, Chris Marks, David Webster, Stan Oakes.

Seated: - Mike Morley, Eddie Hardy, David Leney.

Bob Shearman had injured his leg and hence missed the lunch

The Club.

Club membership is now 72 of whom 3 members are not well enough to attend. Two members, Doug Rayfield and Griff Griffiths, have sadly died this year but we have had three new recruits with John Meehan, Peter Webb and Paddy Lane. We could still do with new members so if any of you have friends who might be interested then bring them along for lunch some time.

What Do Our Ladies Do?

If you attend the Ladies' Lunches you will have found that the ladies sitting to your left and right have many different interests. Most of them, long since released from parental and career duties (though grandchildren may well occupy a lot of their time) and long since bored with the routine of housework (were they ever enamoured of it?) have taken up with a huge variety of hobbies – bridge, choirs, charitable work, NADFAS, Guiding, golf, bowls, reading groups - the list goes on and on.

However, one wife is unique in so far as she has a rather special interest. Hilary Freeman is Mistress and Captain of her own Pedalo which she peddles, under her own flag, around an eight acre lake in Lightwater. Husband Roy watches on with amusement and some admiration. She frequently peddles across the lake to share a glass (or two) of wine with a friend and then peddles back (one hopes in a straight line!) to her flat which overlooks the lake. Hilary seems also to have become an unofficial 'Lake Ranger' as she monitors the activities of the Canada geese particularly during the mating season.

The moral of all this? Don't underestimate your companions at the next Ladies' Lunch!

Probus Outings

Much thought at committee meetings is given to organising suitable outings – Will the planned visit be universally interesting and not just for a few? Have we been there previously? Can we do it at a

reasonable price? It is rewarding, therefore, to report on some recent trips. The Dover Castle visit was enjoyable and a real success; Farnborough Museum & Abbey was another outstanding day and demonstrated how much largely unknown history is on our doorstep. Buried in Farnborough Abbey are Napoleon III, his wife Eugenie and their son.

Later this year 39 members and friends (including 6 from Frimley Probus) are going to Bath & Bath Abbey on Thursday 22 July and one week later 29 'socialites' are going to spend a weekend in Chester.

More 'takers' are needed for the lunch at Middle Temple on August 3rd and there is the possibility of a tour of the Military College, Sandhurst in September. The Rhine cruise (now fully booked) is from 7 – 11 October 2010.

Make a note of 18th November when a visit to Sotheby's, London is being planned.

Those who managed to take on the inclement weather will remember the mulled wine and mince pie evening held in St. Anne's Church Centre last December. Friday 17th December is the date fixed for a similar event but numbers will be limited to 50 so make sure you book as soon as the board goes round.

A Christmas concert is also being planned but no date has yet been fixed.

As our President keeps saying, if you have any suitable ideas for future visits please let a member of the Committee know.



Probus and
The Cody Flyer at
F.A.S.T Museum