



# Pro-Biz



Web site - <http://www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk>

Issue No 246 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus

July 2019

## BANANAS AND NUCLEAR WASTE

To the layman, the connection may seem somewhat abstruse. But the solution to this – and much else besides – was revealed in a quick-fire and charismatic presentation by one of *the foremost international authorities on radiological protection, Professor Paul Leonard*. In his introduction of our eminent guest at the Club's June Luncheon Meeting, Chairman Martin Hart laid emphasis on Paul's leading role in many prestigious institutions and as the driving force behind numerous key projects and initiatives.

Paul first explained that for many there is a fear of being exposed to radiation, especially as nuclear bombs and accidents are issues of which we are all aware.

What may surprise people is how the amount of natural radiation varies due to the geology of a region, and we all have naturally occurring radionuclides in our bodies.

*(As a hands-on element to the talk, a range of materials including a smoke alarm and a luminised pocket watch were compared with locally purchased foodstuffs, using a gamma radiation monitor).* Paul went on to illustrate that radiation is much higher e.g. in Cornwall due to the granite and emission of radon gas. People naturally contain Potassium 40, as do many foods such as bananas and Brazil nuts. While statistics can show there is a growing chance of developing cancer from increasing exposure to radiation, it is very difficult to attribute cause to an effect.

Highlighting his own work on the Chernobyl and Fukushima accidents, Paul concluded that the way in which lessons have been learnt and the need to keep under review emergency response procedures was underlined.

Paul having dealt with some cogent questions, Keith McArthur's vote of thanks was resoundingly endorsed by members before they moved homewards doubtless to check their Potassium 40 levels !

*(Jim Woodford)*



## BARBEQUE 25 JUNE - OUR BIGGEST TURNOUT EVER!!

Although overcast, weather was on our side once again for the setting of the Tamesis Club on the Thames for the Club's fifth Barbeque with 91 members and friends attending. June this year has been the usual British summer with hot and chilly periods, but on the day it was pleasantly warm. Although Howard and Mel were away on a cruise, he very kindly once again provided an enormous marquee. For our barbecue, the main ingredients were again sourced from local traders, as were the selection of desserts. The accompanying salads and other cold items were prepared by some of the ladies, and three Probus chefs were installed behind the barbecues for the expected large number of diners. Naturally the bar was well supported and we were promptly served by two members from the Tamesis club. Our thanks go to all the 'worker' volunteers and the Commodore of the Tamesis club (no less than our Past Chairman – Chris Pollard) for their hospitality and allowing us the use of their facilities. It was again a wonderful social event.



Photos:- Keith Willcocks and Peter Turner

## PROBUS WALK FROM THE SKIMMINGTON CASTLE, SKIMMINGTON 2 JULY

Another beautiful summer's day greeted our 9 Probus walkers at the car park of The Skimmington Castle pub. This is a little gem tucked away just to the west of Reigate, a little oasis of quiet and calm with no noise from the M25, overflying from Gatwick, or any main roads nearby. There to greet us in the car park were a group of tree surgeons, who managed to shatter the tranquillity and also block the footpath at the start of our walk. Boots were rapidly secured, and we beat a hasty retreat with a slight detour to take us on to our extended walk. We first had to navigate a narrow part of the footpath, giving way to a large group of school children and their teachers, who could have been on a climate change protest and thereby missing double maths for the afternoon. Once the children had cleared the path we were off in earnest, and after a slight rise had a beautiful view over the corn fields towards Box Hill. This whole area, although close to London, seems to have missed the present enthusiasm for covering the country in new build estates. It was then back down the hill and through a large corn field with a clearly marked footpath, which was quite narrow so it was lucky we didn't meet any more school groups coming the other way. As we cleared the field it was then a couple of hundred yards along a narrow lane, avoiding the traffic, and crossing the River Mole. The footpath opened up into a new road which seemed to be made of building rubble and a mass of chalk, and there was a massive pile in the adjacent farm yard. It looked like the farmer had been receiving building spoil from somewhere local, and was making a few bob dumping it on his land. Haymaking in this area is well under way, and so our next field was a little difficult to navigate as the path had been obligated and confidence in the route began to wain. Usually at this point the walk leader passes responsibility to his wife, thereby attempting to avoid any criticism, and so this ruse was activated and sure enough we went a little off piste, ending up in another corn field unrecognisable from the recy that we had done the week before. It was decided to follow the tractor route through the field in the forlorn hope that it may bring us to an useable exit, but unfortunately it merely lead us in a large circle. It was then decided to retrace our steps, and more by luck than judgement we found the correct route. By then we had lost a good 45 minutes, and a call was made to the pub to tell them that we would be rather late but please hold our booking. With the whole group happy to be on the right route again, and the pub not too far away, it was a question of clearing four stiles in a row which Granny 'V' (Vera Macrea) managed very well with her now healing wrist. After navigating one more narrow road section, which bought us to the last footpath running down to the pub, located pretty much in the middle of nowhere but was surprisingly crowded for a Tuesday afternoon. We met up with 5 Probus diners, and had an excellent lunch, and cannot praise the pub too much as the menu is extensive and after a little trouble reconnecting the draught beers the flow was back on.

*(Keith McArthur)*



### FUTURE EVENTS:

**Tuesday 6 Aug:** Pub Lunch and Walk – Around Canary Wharf. Organiser Keith McArthur

**Tuesday 20 Aug:** Club Luncheon – Speakers – Talks to be given by two Club Members