



Pro-Biz



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LUNCH TALK: “A SLICE OF EEL PIE” by CELIA HOLMAN



The speaker at our March lunch was Celia Holman, who lives on Eel Pie Island and is an ardent supporter of the Eel Pie Island Museum located opposite York House in Twickenham. During lunch, leaflets advertising the museum were distributed to members and enquiries made about any anecdotal stories they may have from personal experience of visiting the island in the 1960's.

Celia started by mentioning the inventor of the clockwork radio, Trevor Bayliss, who lived on the island for several years and whose premises feature as an exhibit in the museum.

She then showed images depicting the history of the island including the ferry which was the means of access before the

first bridge was built. The residents decided that an offer from British Gas to provide a gas supply was “a good idea” and a pipe was duly attached to the bridge. Unfortunately, an accurate survey had not been carried out and damage was gradually caused, resulting in the closure of the bridge, and the ferry was reinstated. Eventually, British Gas accepted liability for replacing the bridge with the current structure. Past images of deliveries via the first bridge were shown using wheelbarrows and trollies and Celia confirmed that this is still the case.

The main topic of her presentation was the history of the Eel Pie Island Hotel, especially the time it was owned by Michael Snapper who allowed the hotel and its ballroom to be used as a music venue from 1957. The first performers were jazz musicians including Acker Bilk, Kenny Ball, and Terry Lightfoot who went on to achieve worldwide fame. During the following decade, the venue hosted many performers who went on to achieve fame and notoriety as “pop stars”.

One example was Long John Baldry who discovered Rod Stewart busking on Twickenham Station whilst both were waiting for a late train home via Waterloo. Stewart had been seen by LJB in the audience and suggested that he join him during his next performance, starting a singing career that continues to this day.

Ian McRae revealed that he had attended school with LJB who was a year older. Robert Heath shared his experiences of bouncing up and down on the ballroom floor during his youth. Mention was also made of appearances by The Quarrymen, who included Paul McCartney and John Lennon before The Beatles were formed, David Jones (who changed his name to Bowie) and early performances by The Rolling Stones. Celia ended by inviting everyone to visit the museum and to purchase any of the promotional merchandise which she had brought with her.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Bruce Dawson-Moray and enthusiastically acclaimed by all.



OUR NEW LUNCHEON VENUE- FULWELL GOLF CLUB



Our lunch meeting on 18th March marked our first event at Fulwell Golf Club following our departure from TMYC. This was a very successful meeting with an excellent lunch enjoyed by forty members and guests.

We welcomed three members from the Twickenham PROBUS Club as our guests. We also welcomed John Sheaf as a guest and prospective member introduced by Jaap Hamel.

It was good to see a couple of our members who haven't been able to attend for some while.

We look forward to our future lunches at Fulwell Golf Club being just as enjoyable.

WALK AND PUB LUNCH, THE BELVEDERE ARMS, SUNNINGHILL

Our nine sturdy walkers, plus Peppa, met and set off from the Belvedere on schedule, blessed with glorious spring weather. There was a short factoid on the pub, notable as nearby to the site of Edward VIII's 1936 abdication speech, misnamed then thankfully reverted to its ancient association with Fort Belvedere.



After a leisurely stroll around the lake in Windsor Great Park, then a rather stressful road crossing, it was into the idyllic peace of Cowarth Park and its polo grounds, and the rather inaptly-named 'The Barn', in fact a luxurious leisure complex owned by the Dorchester Hotel Group: a case of "if you have to ask (the price of a room), then you can't afford it". A tour around Sunningdale Village, a rest stop at the (closed) church, the sight of Red Kites and the sound of woodpeckers, and the only hazard the scent of frying bacon butties at the kiosk on the way out, and a welcome back at the pub, joining the diners, plus Peppa.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 2nd May:

Walk/Pub Lunch, The Barley Mow, Tilford, nr Farnham, GU10 2BU
Organisers Ian Macrae, Mike Fraser

THURSDAY 18th May:

Club Luncheon, Speaker: John Inglis - "Panorama of The Thames"

Tuesday 6th June:

Walk/Pub Lunch, The Percy Arms, Chilworth, GU4 8NP
Organisers Ian Macrae, Mike Fraser