



Pro-Biz



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WALK FROM THE ABINGER HATCH, ABINGER COMMON, 4th JULY 2023



The first challenge of this walk was getting to the starting point at the Abinger Hatch pub. It was a day when the traffic around the Hampton area and beyond seemed to be gridlocked by vehicles courtesy of the Flower Show. Eventually eleven people had managed to make it to the Hatch, but the delays meant that the walk didn't start until nearly 11a.m., an hour later than scheduled.

The intrepid eleven walkers and one dog set off under threatening skies, expecting to return for a late lunch due to the delayed start. It started off well enough, with good progress being made over easy ground on a footpath through some woods. The next stretch was along a country lane past some interesting old cottages, probably tied to the Wotton estate. The sky grew darker as we reached the point where we were due to turn down a forest track. There was a sign on the gate saying that the footpath was closed, and a JCB was standing a little way ahead.

Mike Fraser, a man with authority (being a former policeman), went to investigate and found a workman who told him it was too dangerous to use the path. To continue our walk the only alternative route was to find our way along roads, including the busy A25. It had started to rain a bit by now, and the collective decision was to retrace our steps back to the Hatch rather than just trudge along the roadside.

So for possibly the first time the walking party reached the lunch venue before any of the driving diners. The walkers had a look in the local church to kill some time before crossing over to the pub. They were joined by seven other arrivals and a convivial lunch was enjoyed.

LUNCH TALK ON “FOOD, DRINK AND DINING HISTORY” by MARC MELTONVILLE

Our June lunch talk was a treat for fellow members with an interest shared by many, in beer and beer making, and specifically, by our speaker, in Tudor times. It was our good fortune to have some light shed on this rather arcane topic by a real expert; Marc Meltonville is a noted food historian, whose research into the history and the creation of early breweries both in this country and the USA has led to the unearthing of many ancient and previously lost documents and recipes. Interpreting their special language, he has been involved in the recreation of old breweries, often in castles (Petworth, Portsmouth, Keys at Cambridge, and our neighbouring



Hampton Court Palace, with its Rose, Red Lion, White Hart and Dragon, and in Pennsylvania in the USA): the focus on castles appears to have been driven by the importance of beer as an energy source for isolated troops.

Marc introduced us to a number of early terms and their derivations, and he led us through a real brewery project, using these skills to recreate a genuine Tudor experience: the result was a satisfying brew which would have been acceptable to the members, but, sadly, no samples.

BBQ

Sixty-five members, wives and guests attended our annual BBQ at Tamesis Sailing Club. The weather was kind for us and warm but not too hot. Malcolm and Marilyn O'Connor plus Colin Greasby were our cooks. They were joined by Hilary Dodman and Andy Stephen when the smoke had really got going! Accompanying the well-cooked lunch of beefburgers and sausages were an excellent selection of salads provided by the Ladies Club. This was rounded off with a good selection of sweets along with cheese and biscuits for those who preferred that option. We were well looked after by the two bar staff from Tamesis who did a sterling job assisting in the washing up. Many thanks to those who helped set up and assisted in any way to make the event so enjoyable. We also thank Tamesis Club for allowing us to use their facilities once again. We don't have any photos of this year's event but here's a stock photo to show the magnificent location!



IN MEMORIAM: ERIC EUSTANCE May 1938 – April 2023



Eric was brought up in the north of England and qualified as an accountant. He and his wife Jane had lived with their two sons in the Farnham area for many years. In retirement Eric and Jane moved to Twickenham to be nearer their family. This is when Eric joined our club in May 2012.

Eric was a regular walker on our monthly walks and pub lunches right up to the month before he died. His stout brown boots and red laces stood out in the crowd. He was a keen reader and exchanged books regularly with some members.

Eric became our Chairman in April 2022; he was honoured to be nominated. He also was very involved in our negotiations with Fulwell Golf Club prior to our move there in March. Sadly, he was taken ill before our first lunch there and was never able to attend our new venue.

Eric passed away a few days before completing his term of office as our Chairman. His funeral was well attended by Club members as a sign of the high esteem he held in the club. Eric will be much missed.

FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 1st August : Walk/Pub Lunch, The Cricketers on the Green, The Green Pirbright, GU24 0JT
Organiser: Mike Spraggs

Monday 14th August: Club Luncheon, No speaker