



# Pro-Biz



Web site - [www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk](http://www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk)

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## **WALK FROM THE CRICKETERS ON THE GREEN, PIRBRIGHT, 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST 2023**

Eight people plus Pepper the dog set off from The Cricketers pub on the edge of Pirbright village green on a sunny but windy morning. The walk meandered along lanes, footpaths and across fields around the Pirbright area. We passed the village church and admired the very large gravestone of Henry Morton Stanley (famed for the immortal words:

“Dr Livingstone, I presume?”).

At this point we had to stop for a few minutes whilst one of the walkers went back to The Cricketers to retrieve their phone which they had left in the pub



toilet. We passed some lovely cottages (and larger houses) that were scattered around the route, as well as several alpacas and a lot of horses (of great interest to Pepper). At one stage we missed a turning but fortunately this caused only a short detour.

The full walk would have been four miles, but Mike Fraser had figured out a way to take a short cut which shaved off a bit of time and distance, and we arrived back at The Cricketers soon after midday, anticipating a jolly lunch with some of the Probus crowd who normally meet the walkers at the pub. However, no one else had been able to make it but the walking group enjoyed their meals, although it was a quieter than usual event.

## **LUNCH TALK ON “SUPPORTING SCHOOLS IN THE UKRAINE” by ROBIN JOWIT OBE**

Robin gave us a brief but telling presentation of the problems faced by the school system there, and how it is coping in a country under siege, as observed during his independent visit in 2022. Robin drew on his using his background of twenty years’ experience as a school governor to highlight these issues. Whilst the physical damage to the infrastructure is all too evident to us from media coverage, Robin emphasised the effects on the schools: some 3139 bombed, and 442 destroyed, with electrical supplies fluctuating and often reduced to 4 to 6 hours per day. Less obvious is the traumatic effect on the students; he observed many instances of psychological damage, exacerbated by fears of their own safety (some 132 children have already been killed ), and retreating Russian troops have left a legacy of landmines. Forced migration has reduced some class numbers: the teachers, their ranks already reduced by deaths from attacks, have evolved strategies such as teaching in shifts and merging classes. He explained the support he was receiving from the Rotary, and from Richmond Borough, towards his target of £50,000 for the reconditioning and supply of laptop computers, and of batteries to supplement reduced electrical supplies, and distributed leaflets with further information.

## IN MEMORIAM: KEITH McARTHUR, JUNE 1945 – APRIL 2023



Keith was born at West Middlesex Hospital and grew up in Hounslow. On leaving school, he completed a mechanical engineering apprenticeship with Fluidrive Engineering Company, whilst attending Twickenham Technical College. After qualifying and a few years on, he went to work for Decca Radar, as an electrical engineer. With the discovery of North Sea Oil, he changed track to become a Petro-Chemical piping designer, until his retirement in 2013.

Keith then joined our Probus Club, where he enjoyed the role of organising monthly walks and pub lunches. He served a Term of Office as Chairman, continued attending committee meetings until recently and regularly volunteered as a chef for the annual Probus BBQ.

He and Margaret lived for the past 53 years in the same house in Lawrence Road, Hampton, where they raised Alan, Julie and Ian. Keith became very well known in the local neighbourhood, being out-going and friendly. He organised several street parties for Royal occasions, the first being for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977 and the last for her Platinum Jubilee. Sadly, he missed celebrating King Charles' Coronation.

Further to his own Scouting days, Keith took on various roles with 3rd Hampton Scout Troop, eventually becoming Scout Leader. He retired from this in 2002 and became Quartermaster, regularly mowing the Scout Hut Lawn until the end of last year. He enjoyed all aspects of the Scouts' twice-yearly jumble sales and could be seen and heard collecting jumble in the trailer attached to his much-loved Citroen 2CV, which he'd bought as a project when he retired. He was recognized around Hampton, when he was out and about in the 2CV which he also displayed at 'Cars on the Green' each year.

Keith joined Hampton Sailing Club in 1984, sailing most Sundays during the season and attending working parties in winter. He enjoyed the social aspects of the club, arranging games for various events and could always be seen in fancy dress at the annual Summer Regatta Party.

Over 35 years, Keith loved leading an annual New Year's Ramble, for local friends and their families, including one for this January. As with the 'Probus Plodders', walkers often experienced being lost, wet and muddy but always enjoyed the camaraderie and a good pub lunch!

As a member of the Twickenham & Thames Valley Beekeepers' Association, Keith kept several hives on his allotment, where his famous Hampton Honey was produced. He generously gave away jars of honey to friends and enjoyed occasional talks about beekeeping, including one he gave after a Probus Luncheon.

Keith will be sadly missed by many, but never forgotten.

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### FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Hare and Hounds, Osterley TW7 5PR  
Organiser: Mike Spraggs

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> September : Club Luncheon, Speaker: Jordanne Cliffe "The Fine Cell Network"