



Pro-Biz



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WALK AND PUB LUNCH – THE HARE AND HOUNDS, OSTERLEY – 5TH SEPTEMBER 2023



Sixteen walkers assembled at the Hare and Hounds pub car park and a special welcome was extended to Frank Burton who was joining us for the first time. Frank hopes to join PROBUS at the October lunch. It was also great to have Ian and Vera Macrae back with us again, Ian having recovered from a nasty leg injury caused by a fall earlier in the year.

As we were setting off from the car park a cyclist appeared from nowhere asking for us to wait and once helmet and sunglasses were removed Colin Greasby appeared, having cycled from Hampton. With a grand total of seventeen walkers, we headed off on what was a very warm and humid day. We followed a grassy foot path towards the entrance of Osterley Park along a gravel path passing a huge lake on our left with a view of Osterley House in the distance. It was then through a wooded area and out onto grassland where we then headed to Osterley House, owned by the National Trust. The house was initially built in 1575 but transformed to its present state in 1756. It was handed to the National Trust in 1949. The house is closed to the public on a Tuesday; however, the gardens were open so with the production of a National Trust member's card we were allowed to enter. The gardens looked wonderful. We passed the Robert Adam garden house, walked beside the Great Meadow, saw the Temple of Pan (a place for children to play) and then entered the West Wood, a most welcome cool shaded area out from the heat of the sun.

Thirty minutes later we emerged from the woods back at Osterley House and then proceeded to follow a different route back to the pub, where we were joined by five further diners making a total of twenty-two. The pub accommodated us brilliantly and having been fed and watered we got back into our cars for home, except for Colin who got back on his bike for the ride back to Hampton!

IN MEMORIAM: GEOFFREY BOWYER - *an appreciation by Chris Oprey*



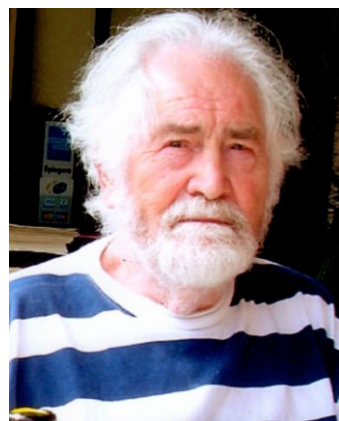
Geoffrey Bowyer died appropriately at Brinsworth House, our local and famous retirement home for stars of stage, screen and radio. He joined a long list of luminaries including Norman Wisdom, Mike Yarwood and Teddy Johnson and Pearl Carr. He lived his Yearwood life for music. His prowess on the piano was recognised early, to be followed by virtuosity on the organ. He was a Fellow of the Royal College of Organists. He once played the Hammond Organ at Brentford Music Museum. Some of our more ancient Probians will remember him rising in full splendour from the organ pit. Just like being in Blackpool. Another passion was playing the piano for silent movies.

A distinctive part of splendor his time was conducting choirs, particularly the locally famous Cantanti Camerati. Ladies' choirs fascinated him and he fascinated them although it sometimes ended in tears as Geoffrey sought the elusive High C. He was proud of his membership of the Mothers' Union and the Women's Institute. An undiagnosed problem with one arm ended his conducting career and left him unable to continue playing the piano to his own very high standards. He was awarded an M.MUS degree by the University of Reading. Geoffrey had a long history of church organ playing which brought him into contact with some Anglican vicars who proved to be his *bête noires*. They were grateful, however for the large amounts he raised for the Organ Fund. He wrote *A Pilgrim's Requiem* - a fine piece of music which deserves to be heard more. Not bad for a shoemaker's son, eh?

IN MEMORIAM: BOB PARSLOW- *an appreciation by Bill Weisblatt*

With the death of Bob Parslow at the age of 97 our Club has lost one of our most colourful, likeable and talented members. Bob was born in Simla in the Indian foothills, where his father was an education officer in the British army. After returning to the UK, Bob did his national service with the Fleet Air Arm towards the end of WWII. He enrolled at University College London to read mathematics. Bob was the epitome of the free-thinking, rational human being. He became a Senior Lecturer in Computer Science at the newly founded Brunel University as well as a visiting lecturer at Otago University in New Zealand. He spent some years as a Lib Dem Councillor, achieving some success with the establishment of Hampton's village green on the site of an old water works filter bed and improving the condition of Hampton riverside. A cause dear to his heart was improving adequate provision for children with special educational needs. Bob's wife Marion is carrying on with the work through a small charity SOS!SENS, which supports children and their families affected by such problems.

It was entirely in character that Bob did not have a conventional "funeral", but his ashes were taken by his family in a biodegradable urn to Hampton Sailing Club (of which he was a member) and placed in the Thames. The expectation is that they will over a period of time disperse and travel down to the sea towards France, New Zealand and all places that Bob loved. He was an eccentric in the best sense of the term, a description with which Marion fully agrees. He was a wonderful man and will be much missed.



FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 3rd October: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Bell, East Molesey KT8 0SS
Organiser: Ian Macrae

Tuesday 19th September: Club Luncheon, Speaker: Jordanne Cliffe "The Fine Cell Work"