



Pro-Biz



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OUR CHAIRMAN, ROBERT MORTIMER



Robert says: "I felt honoured and to be honest 'chuffed' when I was asked, in March of last year, if I would be willing to be nominated as 'Chairman Elect' for the year 2024/25. After a year as Deputy Chairman, thank you for appointing me 'Chairman' at the AGM in April.

My main career was with Barclays Bank, initially in branch postings.. We moved to Hampton when I was appointed training manager of the Barclays Training Centre in Teddington. Later I had responsibilities for people skills and customer service training and spent my final twenty-two months abroad, which although enjoyable and rewarding was tough on my late wife Margaret and our children who stayed in Hampton to complete their education. Whilst on a computer course at Richmond College I met the late Doug Rowlands who was a member of our Club and invited me to join our Club.

I do miss the annual trips we had to the Cadogan Hall evening concerts where coach hire has become too expensive. More recently I have joined the walks which I have enjoyed very much.

I look forward to the year ahead with your support and if anyone has ideas of places to visit, or lunch speakers, please let us know, even better if you would help to organise them."

LUNCH TALK ON "THE COFFEE HOUSE REVOLUTION" by HELEN NAYLOR

Dr Helen Naylor is a City of Westminster blue badge guide. Helen gave us a comprehensive review of the boom in London's coffee houses during the Age of Enlightenment.

Whilst the taverns provided gin, the chance of a fist fight and other low pleasures, the coffee houses offered sober conversation and discourse with one's peers for the price of a coffee at 1d. That's worth close to £2 today.

Coffee beans were supplied into London by the Levant Company. The first London coffee house was opened on Cornhill in 1652 and managed by Pasqua Rosee. Restoration London had a rapid commercial expansion and saw the coffee houses boom in number. Coffee houses were meeting points and centres for information exchange: they later became the progenitors of key organisations such the London Stock Exchange, Lloyds of London, Royal Society for the Arts and even the RSPCA.

Helen could only speculate as to how the coffee tasted and whether it was sugared to cut the bitterness. Did that aspect of the coffee trade add to the expansion of the slave trade?

John Murray gave the vote of thanks to Helen and members showed their strong appreciation in the usual way.



WALK AND LUNCH, THE KINGS ARMS, BAGSHOT, 2nd JULY 2024



The twelve walkers met promptly at the Kings Arms, the drivers having successfully negotiated the rather convoluted access to the car park; ideal walking weather, in what has turned out to be a hit and miss summer. After a brief road walk, we were into the Crown Estate lands, and the paths were a delight, firm underfoot amongst woodlands and mature pines, and some crossing of the Windlesham Brook. There was sight of the Bagshot Park estate, the home of the present Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh. This was built originally by Queen Victoria as a wedding gift for her son, Prince Arthur of Connaught and Strathearn, who married Princess Louise Margaret of Prussia in 1879. As the two walk leaders can attest, after their recent reconnaissance, any deviation from the well-maintained path can lead into rather wild terrain. In light of this, on the return an alternative route was decided on, unplanned but rewarding.

Arrival at the pub was on time, and the three mile+ target was achieved. We were joined by three diners, and had a good meal, promptly and efficiently served: the consensus was “ a good walk”.

SUMMER PARTY, TAMESIS CLUB, TEDDINGTON, FRIDAY 28TH JUNE



This year's Summer Party at Tamesis changed format to a buffet provided by Sarah (Hampton Hampers). 65 members and guests attended and enjoyed a superb buffet lunch.

Thanks to the good weather, the event was a great success.



FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 6th AUGUST: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Half Moon, Church Road, Windlesham GU20 6BN
Mike Fraser

TUESDAY 20th AUGUST: Club Lunch, no speaker.

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER: Walk/Pub Lunch and visit to Alan Greenwood's Fire Engine Museum