



Pro-Biz



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WALK/LUNCH, THE HALF MOON WINDLESHAM, 6th AUGUST 2024



It wasn't the most pleasant of conditions for the thirteen walkers that gathered at The Half Moon public house in Windlesham, Surrey, for our August walk and pub lunch. From the moment we set off, persistent downpours of rain made walking a challenging experience, with some of us not really wearing the appropriate clothing which only made matters worse. However, we all stuck to the task to walk the four-mile route that took in a number of bridleways where heavy mud tested our endurance, although Pepper (Sue and Mike's collie) seemed to relish it.

After crossing a footbridge over the M3 we headed into a wooded area where unfortunately the group leader missed a turning, but after about 200 metres or so realised his mistake and we retraced our steps, which thankfully all went to plan, although the rain continued!

After crossing back over the M3 via another footbridge, the route back to the pub was primarily on road and we returned to the sanctuary of the pub after approximately a total of two and quarter hours all absolutely soaked. All but two stayed for lunch with an extra five non-walkers joining us.

We were well looked after by the pub with good food and ale.

LUNCH TALK ON “LIFE BEHIND THE SCENES AT BBC TELEVISION CENTRE”, by JENNY MALLIN



Jenny Mallins is best known as the winner of the “Best in the World Cookbook 2017” but for ten years in her early career she was a junior member of the BBC’s production team, literally living life behind the scenes at the Beeb.

Jenny outlined the launch and development of the BBC’s television service. Starting in 1935 in the Alexandra Palace dining room, it was the 1953 Coronation that kickstarted sales of TV sets and wider public interest. The TV service moved out to Lime Grove in 1949 and then by 1960 to the custom-built BBC TV Centre. This was designed by Graham Dawbarn. It was on the site of the Franco-British exhibition of 1908. The buildings appear as a form of question mark, with broadcast studios and support departments tightly wound together. Jenny highlighted the massive scale of the Props Department and Wardrobe’s diligence in costume design. On-site facilities included the BBC club and restaurant. The BBC also used the theatre on Shepherd’s Bush Green for variety shows such as Billy Cotton’s Bandshow and The Generation Game.

Jenny’s work focussed on drama scripts, working for the production team most notably with Alan Bennett. She also worked on John Craven’s Newsround.

The TV centre is now a residential development with only a small residual TV production facility. Bill Rawcliffe, one of our ex-TV professionals, gave the vote of thanks.

FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 3rd SEPTEMBER: Walk/Pub Lunch and visit to Alan Greenwood’s Fire Engine Museum
Meet point and lunch venue to be confirmed

TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER: Club Lunch Speaker: Inspector Jon McLoughlan,
“The Role of Neighbourhood Policing Within Richmond Borough”