



Pro-Biz



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WALK/PUB LUNCH, DUKE OF WELLINGTON, EAST HORSLEY 5th NOVEMBER 2024



The Duke of Wellington public house at East Horsley, Surrey, provided the venue for the November PROBUS walk and pub lunch. A very overcast day was the setting for twelve walkers who had assembled at the pub for the three-and-a-half-mile circular walk around the woodland and grassland of Sheepleas. Prior to setting off, a special welcome was given to Alan Jackson who was joining us for the first time. A small factoid was given relating to Horsley Towers, (now a posh hotel) located opposite the pub, which is a large gothic mansion built in 1829 and designed by Sir Charles Barry who also designed the Houses of Parliament. On leaving the Duke of Wellington, the route followed the A246 towards West Horsley, passing West Horsley Place once the home of Sir Walter Raleigh. On reaching St. Mary's Church, it was then into the woods with Pepper, a collie dog belonging to Sue and Mike, keeping everyone in check. The walk was predominately along various bridle paths that meandered around the wooded and grassland areas of Sheepleas and at one point of the walk allowed us to make a slight detour to the Millenium Viewpoint, where apparently on a clear day gave views of the London Eye and St. Paul's Cathedral, but alas as the weather was somewhat cloudy and overcast no such view occurred. Being at the highest point of the walk it was downhill all the way back to the pub where a further ten diners joined us for a very pleasant lunch and social gathering.

LUNCH TALK ON “SWINGING LONDON” by NICK DOBSON



Nick entertained us with his presentation of several images from the 1960's entitled "Swinging London", many (if not all) of which were familiar to the few members present.

He started by explaining that this was the period when the post-war "baby boomers" became teenagers and entered adulthood with average weekly family incomes of £18. In 1960, the CND marched from Aldermaston to Trafalgar Square: Nick explained that during one talk a member of the audience exclaimed "That's me, in that photo".

1962 saw the demise of most trolleybuses in London, although those based at Fulwell continued in use until 1968. This was also the year of the "smog" which paralysed London for several days.

The Beatles became famous in 1963 being dubbed "The Fab Four" and in August, a mail train travelling from Glasgow to London was stopped in Buckinghamshire and robbed of £2.6M in used bank notes and in November the first episode of "Dr. Who" was televised. When the Post Office Tower was completed in 1964, it was the tallest structure in London at 620 feet, including the aerials at the top.

The "pirate" station Radio London started broadcasting near the Essex coast in December and broadcast until 1967 when supplying the ship became illegal.

Sir Winston Churchill died in 1965. He received a state funeral involving a military procession in London, a journey along the Thames from the city to Waterloo Station and the transfer of his coffin by a train hauled by a steam locomotive named after him. This year saw the introduction of mini-skirts designed by Mary Quant. This was also the year that the GLC was formed, creating the 32 London Boroughs and the historic County of Middlesex was absorbed into several of them. The first Notting Hill Carnival was held in this year.

Apart from England winning the World Cup, 1966 heralded the model Twiggy as "The Face of 1966". On 15 April 1966, Time Magazine dedicated its issue to "London: The Swinging City".

The Royal Arsenal in Woolwich closed in 1967. The site was used to create a new town named Thamesmead. In 1968, a rich American named Robert P. McCulloch purchased London Bridge from the City of London and rebuilt it, brick by brick, in Lake Havasu City, Arizona. It has often been said that he thought he was buying Tower Bridge, but the new bridge was constructed with reinforced concrete and clad in the bricks transported from London. The notorious East End gangsters, the Kray Twins, had eluded prosecution for several years, but in 1968 they were arrested along with 15 other associates. Following a trial in 1969, they were both convicted of murder and imprisoned for life. The Victoria Line from Brixton to Walthamstow opened in 1969 and is the only London Underground Line to have no stations at ground level apart from the Waterloo and City Line. This was also the year of The Beatles' final performance on the roof of their Apple Corps office in Savile Row.

FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 26th NOVEMBER: Lunch at The View, Richmond- Upon-Thames College, TW2 7SJ

TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER: Walk/Pub Lunch, The Hampton Ale House, 31 Tangle Park Road,
Hampton TW12 3YH

TUESDAY 17th DECEMBER: Club Christmas Lunch
