



# Pro-Biz



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

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**WALK/PUB LUNCH, THE HAMPTON ALE HOUSE, HAMPTON 3<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER 2024**



It could not have been more local than the Hampton Ale House located at Tangle Park, Hampton, for the December PROBUS pub lunch and walk.

A clear sunny and very mild day gave the thirteen walkers, who had met at the pub, a big lift for the 3.5 mile walk ahead of them. After the statutory group photograph outside the pub, we set off towards Hampton Common with once again Pepper, Mike & Sue's collie, leading the way. Having crossed the common and over Oak Avenue we entered the Oak Avenue Nature Reserve which had previously been the site for industrial greenhouses that supplied local nursery gardens. An ivy clad chimney still stands on the site and is believed to have been part of the horticultural heating system. The walk then followed a very muddy path through a wooded enclosed area which eventually led to a gate which gave access to Twickenham Rugby Club grounds. This club was first formed in 1867 and played its matches on Twickenham Green but owing to the damage caused to the land they were asked to leave the Green and after playing at several other locations within the borough they moved to their present site in the 1930's. Having circled around the rugby club we then entered Hatherop Park before returning back out onto a very wet and muddy nature reserve footpath where, at one point, we were challenged with the need to cross a very deep and large flooded area but with the assistance of Kel Razza, who is a big strong fellow, we all managed to get across without any mishaps.

We emerged from the Reserve into Hanworth and followed the road passing Lindon Bennett School, along Swan Road, right into The Alders and then back on Hampton Common where, after a 10 minute walk, we were led back to Hampton Ale House where we were joined by seven fellow diners and enjoyed a delicious lunch served by very efficient and friendly staff.

## LUNCH AT THE VIEW, RICHMOND-UPON-THAMES COLLEGE, 26<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2024



Some 40 members and partners greatly enjoyed a pre-Christmas lunch at The View.

The student catering team assembled to receive our thanks. Many thanks to Hywel Thomas for his diligent organisation of the event.

## LUNCH TALK ON “A HISTORY OF TEDDINGTON” by MALCOLM EADY

Our speaker Malcolm Eady is a stalwart of Twickenham PROBUS. Malcolm gave us a comprehensive review of the history and progressive development of Teddington, based on his fifty years in the locality, in order to support his view that we are privileged to reside in or near a suburban arcadia. We have the benefit of easy commuting to London, access to Royal Parks and finally a beautiful riparian landscape, much loved by artists over the centuries.

Malcolm has seen a transition from light industry such as Grundys' works, the TV studios and the assorted offices of Haymarket Publishing to what is now an almost exclusively residential area, although the NPL and Laboratory of the Government Chemist have renewed their facilities.

Malcolm looked at the history of Teddington, noting the Bronze Age burial mound in Sandy Lane which is now flattened over. Teddington was mentioned in church records dating from 971, and became a Norman hunting forest, and King James I's granting of the manor of Teddington to one John Hill and then the impact of the enclosure of Teddington in or about 1800. The Church of St Mary with St Alban dates to 1217 and now needs some modernisation. He looked at major houses, including Teddington Place built in 1665 and bought in 1683 by Sir Charles Duncan, a leading banker: its estate was sold off in 1887 for the building of St Alban's Church and for housing, and the house itself was pulled down after WWII. Udney House was rebuilt in 1758 for a merchant trading with the West Indies. On the site of the 1950s Telephone Exchange was originally a house built for Sir Orlando Bridgeman, Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal in the reign of King Charles II. Elmfield House dates to the seventeenth century. The village pond was removed as part of the arrival of the railway in 1863, and which led to the considerable expansion of residential housing.

Robert Heath gave the vote of thanks, and members showed their appreciation in the usual way.

## FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY: Pub Walk/Lunch, venue to be confirmed

**TUESDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JANUARY : Club Guest Luncheon, Fulwell Golf Club**