



# Pro-Biz



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

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**WALK/LUNCH, HAMPTON COURT PALACE GOLF CLUB, 7<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025**



10.00a.m. and a cold and frosty morning in Home Park, the walkers are assembled at the Golf Club, but where is our esteemed leader? Delayed, but hastening onward: his trusty second in command is ready and prepared to stand in. Unnecessary, as it turns out, and we are away at our usual 10:15a.m., eighteen strong, with the temperature hovering around freezing.

Our route was past the pond, without its usual flotilla of model yachts, through the alley and turning left along the riverbank. Back into the Park at Kingston Bridge, along the Park's perimeter, and a diversion to pose along the Long Pond, with the Palace in the (far) distance.

In this weather there was little call for factoids, but one walker, a volunteer locally, gave some interesting insights into the bats in the Icehouses, and the background to the rationale behind the Park's proposed status as an SSSI.

Back to the Golf Club after almost four bracing miles, now twenty-three in total with the arrival of our dining only members, and a warm welcome, excellent food and service, and the satisfaction that the pre-planning of our meals paid off.

## CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH, TUESDAY 17<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2024



This was our **600<sup>th</sup>** Club Lunch!

Members enjoyed an excellent festive lunch at Fulwell Golf Club. Our thanks to the catering staff.

Robert Mortimer had asked us to attend in our very best (or worst) Christmas neckwear. The promise of a bottle of wine as the Chairman's prize evidently encouraged much ferreting in the back of wardrobes to rediscover seasonal ties and bow ties from years gone by, including a few aged carol-playing items.

Perhaps one or two members had visited a charity shop to find something suitable- or maybe to buy back Christmas ties previously donated by their wives or partners without their knowledge!

However, Robert's chosen and much-deserved winner was Colin Greasby's eye-grabbing, loud and proud Rudolf!

### IN MEMORIAM - CHRIS OPREY

Sadly, Chris died on Christmas Day. Chris was a much loved and much admired member of our Club. Chris joined us in 1995 and was our Chairman in 2001/2, also chairing the SAC from 2012 to 2019. He was a great holiday and event organiser for the Club.

*This is a edited version of his profile which appeared in the April 2002 edition of Pro-Biz.*

Chris was born in 1937 in Toxteth. During the war, his father served aboard escort vessels for merchant shipping and Chris can recall sheltering from the blitz with his mother in Liverpool Cathedral! From 1949 Chris attended the Bluecoat School; at one point he was poised to leave and become a plumber but was forbidden to do so by his headmaster. The interdict was vindicated by Chris's success at Liverpool University, where he read History and went on to achieve a Research Masters. This presaged a distinguished career in education as a teacher and lecturer, then in staff management and development. His final post prior to his retirement was as Principal Lecturer in Education at the West London Institute of Higher Education.

Chris met Pauline at Maria Grey College, and they were married in 1969. They had two children, Abigail and James. The photo here is Chris with his granddaughter Alice. The Opreys lived in Hampton Hill for many years and had a country retreat in Lymington. Chris and Pauline later moved to Teddington. Chris was a volunteer worker at Twickenham CAB, a fount of fact-based information and help.

Chris said *"I had never thought of myself as being remotely 'clubbable', let alone a committee man. But from the first, I found Probus delightful, both for its friendly informality and the diversity of members' backgrounds and interests. When I step down from the Chair in April, I look forward to many more happy years as a Probian"*.

That wish he achieved with great distinction.

Our sincere condolences go to Pauline, and to Abigail and James and their families.



### FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY: Pub Walk/Lunch, venue to be confirmed

TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY : Club Luncheon, Speaker David Bickerton: "Parents at War"