Pro-Biz

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WALK AND PUB LUNCH, THE RED LION, SHEPPERTON, TUESDAY 1st JULY





Tuesday 1st July has so far been the hottest day of the year with temperatures reaching 34 degrees, so not ideal conditions for the July Probus Walk; but that did not put off Hilary, Margaret, Robert, Anthony and three Mikes as they set off from the Red Lion in Shepperton for what turned out to be almost a five mile walk in testing heat. After leaving the pub, we headed towards the roundabout at the junction with Shepperton High Street, crossed the road in front of the Three Horseshoes pub and into Black Ditch Walk, which is an enclosed footpath providing excellent shade from the heat of the sun. This footpath led to a footbridge over the M3 motorway and then back into the shade of the trees. We then wandered past some vast boating lakes on either side of us, where we saw a number of dogs cooling off in the water of the lakes, which made us walkers quite envious. Eventually, we came to Littleton Lane, crossed back over the M3 and headed for the towpath of the River Thames and out into the heat of the sun heading for Shepperton Lock, passing on route a number of very classy and expensive properties. Once at Shepperton Lock, we followed the road back towards Shepperton Square and headed back to the Red Lion, all pretty exhausted and gasping for refreshment. A further 10 diners joined us for what turned out to be a very enjoyable lunch.

Summer Party at Tamesis Club Tuesday 24th June

Our Summer Party was a great success with some 60 members and guests attending. The buffet was excellent as usual, our thanks to Sarah Burley and her team. The weather was good and sunny but not too hot which made the event most pleasant**.**







LUNCH TALK ON "A Suburb Less Ordinary" by Caroline Bresson, Tuesday 17th June

Caroline opened her talk by illustrating Eel Pie Island's links to Henry V111's nearby Royal Palace in the 1500's. The Island found favour with its inn, bowling and relaxation possibilities, a precedent set for future generations. By the C18th, grand houses like Strawberry Hill, York, Ham and Orleans Houses welcomed many of the cultural icons of the age and their patrons. Caroline compared Pope, Walpole and others to early Rock Stars, and their louche behaviour at their soirees to their 1960s Island contemporaries. In the 1800s, staid Victorian families disembarked from excursion steamers to enjoy bowling and refreshments at the new Hotel, built in 1830 to replace the old inn, a "dingy wooden cottage". A bridge in 1957 improved access, and concerts followed. Initially 'trad jazz', then, in the 60's, a sign announced 'All the Stars', and a long list of pop groups, some of them to become household names, appeared. Meanwhile, the Island's fortunes declined, the Hotel fell into disrepair, and a sad progression of occupation by hippies, squatters and Hell's Angels, coupled with destructive fires, contributed to its unhealthy reputation and final demolition. Fortunately, all was not lost, and a program of renewal led to its present co-existence of private homes and creative traders, and a slightly bohemian ambiance; much more background, especially on the later developments in the music era, is available at the Eel Pie Island Museum in Twickenham, from where Caroline came to deliver this interesting talk.



FUTURE EVENTS

Tuesday 5th August: Walk and Pub Lunch, The Wheatsheaf, Virginia Water, GU25 4QF

Tuesday 19th August: Club Lunch, No speaker.