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Issue No 297 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus October 2025

HOLIDAY TO GALWAY, CONNEMARA AND IRELAND'S STUNNING WEST, 28th SEPTEMBER TO 3rd OCTOBER 2025



Our party of twenty arrived at our comfortable hotel in Claremorris early afternoon. Unfortunately, one couple had to drop out at the last minute due to Covid. Once settled in, we visited The National Museum of Ireland – Country Life in Turlough Park where we learnt a little about the culture and daily life of Irish people in times past.

Our first full day in Ireland we visited Burren with its amazing limestone pavements and the stunning Cliffs of Moher.

The next day we took a boat cruise on Killary Fjord. The beautiful scenery was slightly spoilt by the driving rain and mist! After lunch, we visited Glen Keen Farm where we learnt how sheep dogs are trained with a wonderful demonstration of sheep herding. This was followed by a cream tea in the old farmhouse.

The third day we visited Galway city with free time to visit both the old and new cathedrals or just explore the many shops and bars.

On our last day we toured the extremely picturesque Connemara region. We were scheduled to visit Kylemore Abbey but unfortunately this was closed due to flooding. Having found this out, our excellent coach driver had to reverse around half a mile in order to turn around due to the flooded road ahead. Fortunately, a hastily arranged visit to the Micil Distillery in Galway was arranged, where we were able to sample different whiskeys and Irish Poitin.

We returned home the following day despite having a rearranged flight due to the very high winds.







WALK AND PUB LUNCH, HARE AND HOUNDS, WEST END, 7th OCTOBER 2025



Another poor turnout for the October Probus walk and pub lunch: just four of us met at the Hare and Hounds pub located at West End near Bisley Surrey.

It does raise the question should we consider abolishing the walks. This was the fourth consecutive month where the number has been five or less and is quite dispiriting for us who research and plan the walks.

After our photograph, the four of us crossed the road into an area of dense woodland along an enclosed footpath and then onto Brentmoor Heath Nature Reserve where we were alerted by the sound of gunfire coming from the MOD Firing Ranges that were close by. We followed various footpaths and farm tracks over Brentmoor Heath where part of the walk took us to a Bronze Age burial ground believed to date back to 4500 BC to 200 years BC. We had to smile at the sign placed close by indicating a spade covered by a red cross with the words 'No Digging'

A slight detour caused by the military closing off part of the walk to the public required us to walk a long stretch of road and then over West End common and back to the pub where four diners joined us.

LUNCH TALK ON "THE LONDON FIRE BRIGADE" by BOROUGH COMMANDER ROB DAVIES, TUESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER



Rob is Borough Commander. He outlined the Brigade's operational and executive management structure.

There are three pumps and one special appliance based within the Borough. There are a total of 142 pumps (fire engines) in the Brigade, each carrying 1365 litres of water which can run from 3 to 14 minutes depending upon hose size. The startlingly swift average response time to any call-out in our area is just 5 minutes 32 seconds for first pump arrival.

Borough risks include river risks, for which Rob has led a project installing throw bags on the riverbank, and the special risks raised by Hampton Court and the Allianz Stadium. The Brigade' actively promotes active the fitting of smoke alarm protection. John Nicholson gave the vote of thanks after an extended Q&A from a highly interested audience.

FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 4th NOVEMBER: Walk & Pub Lunch, venue TBC

TUESDAY 18th NOVEMBER: Club Lunch, Speaker Bob Bond, "Gauges Galore"