Pro-Biz

Website - www.probus-teddington-hampton.org.uk

Issue No 298 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus November 2025

WALK AND PUB LUNCH, THE CROWN AND CUSHION, CAMBERLEY, 4th NOVEMBER 2025



Our group of fourteen (plus dog) met in the car park of the Crown & Cushion, and safely crossed the busy Minley Road to enter Hawley Common. The common, which is a wooded area surrounding Hawley Lake, is part of the Minley MOD Training Area and there were warnings that we might hear sudden noises from the Army exercises. There was little sign of activity, although one of the sharp-eyed ladies spotted some young trainee soldiers in the distance - despite their camouflaged combat gear.

This time of year the trees provide a glorious array of colours and although the sun wasn't shining a lot it was a very pleasant walk. Much of the second half of the route was close to the edge of the lake which was visible through the trees and in places there were open views of the extent of the water.

We were back at the pub before noon and were joined by others who had arrived for the lunch – nineteen of us in total. The pub was very busy, with a couple of other large groups lunching there but although we did have to wait quite a while for our food it was a convivial occasion.

Bonus factoids: the pub building dates from 1512 and was an Ale House by 1596. The pub's Meade Hall room was built in the 1970s from the remains of two old barns, one of which was a 16th century barn near Salisbury rumoured to have incorporated timbers from defeated Spanish Armada ships.

VISIT TO HAMPTON & KEMPTON WATERWORKS RAILWAY and KEMPTON STEAM MUSEUM, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

Thanks to Robert Leadbetter for this photograph as a record of our visit to this well -managed heritage attraction in Snakey Lane, Hanworth.



LUNCH TALK: "ELTHAM PALACE" BY ROBIN FIELD-SMITH, TUESDAY 21st OCTOBER 2025



Robin Field-Smith was a serving officer between 1971 and 2000 in the Royal Army Education Corps ("RAEC").
Whilst today we know Eltham Palace as a delightful English Heritage property, it was the HQ Officers' Mess for RAEC between 1945 and 1992. RAEC was responsible for Army education and language training as well as supporting the education of children of service families around the world.
The mediaeval palace was favoured for its situation on the road to Dover, with a Great Hall dating from around 1470. Geoffery Chaucer was the Crown official responsible for its upkeep in the 1390s. It was saved from dereliction and modernised in 1936 as an Art Deco mansion by eccentric socialite millionaires Stephen and Virginia Courtauld who resided with their pet lemur Mah-Jongg. Our speaker had the pleasure and privilege of protracted residence at Eltham as a senior officer. Although on the edge of Greater London, the Palace provided a calm appropriate atmosphere for educational and intellectual activity.
Robin had a second distinguished career as an HM Inspector of Constabulary.

FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 2nd DECEMBER : Walk & Pub Lunch, venue TBC

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER: CLUB CHRISTMAS LUNCH, no speaker.

TUESDAY 20th JANUARY: CLUB GUEST LUNCH