Pro-Biz

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

Issue No 303 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus April 2026

WALK AND PUB LUNCH , THE NEW INN, HAM, TUESDAY 7th APRIL 2026



We were sixteen for this (amended) sortie from the New Inn at Ham. The alternatives, a Riverside walk, or up to Richmond Park; the latter choice rewarded us with one of the best Spring days we have enjoyed.

After a comfort stop at Ham Gate, access to the facilities achieved through the Treasurer's technical expertise, we reached and returned via a visit to Pembroke Lodge, King Henry's Mound and a brief misty glimpse of St. Paul's

Post-walk factoid: the vista of St Paul's as viewed from the Mound had been blocked by dense vegetation,, but was rediscovered in 1976 when a Mr. J. Batten noted the line of sight on a map dated 1746, eventually leading to statutory protection for the view in 1992. Mr. Batten's efforts are marked by a bench at the summit of the Mound.

Back to the New Inn after 3.5 miles, and a meal well merited and served.

LUNCH TALK: "I BUILT AN AEROPLANE IN MY SHED" by COLIN GOODWIN, TUESDAY 17th MARCH 2026



Most surprisingly, Hampton resident and distinguished motoring journalist Colin Goodwin really did build a kit aeroplane section by section in his garden shed at Malvern Road. And he had to build the shed first! And get a pilot's licence too!

He was inspired by seeing the USA-designed Van's RV-7 at an air show in 2006. It's a low wing two-seater, capable of a brisk 217 mph. That air speed would not have been a worry to Colin, who at one time held the Guinness World Record for the fastest speed (104 mph) in reverse gear in a motor car, albeit on the ground.

Colin had no experience in prior vehicle construction or riveting. He set out on his journey of 11,000 rivets with the tailplane.

As each section was completed, his neighbours helped Colin lift the section out across their gardens. The heaviest section was the fuselage with the mounted engine, which had to be craned out.

By 2010 he was finished and the aeroplane pieces were assembled ready for airworthiness test and registration with the Civil Aviation Authority.

After years of work, aided occasionally and briefly by friends, G-DMBO took to the skies and is now painted in a rather fetching orange and purple custom livery. The registration is a tribute to his father who was an RAF front gunner in WWII: his Wellington flew into Germany with a floppy eared elephant stenciled onto the side – and returned from each mission.

Colin is flying G-DMBO successfully from its home base at White Waltham, a former RAF station. The aeroplane has been flown for nearly 1,000 hours. Colin is renowned for flying to business meetings considerably more quickly than can be achieved by the supercars he's reviewing.

Thanks to Colin for an entertaining talk - and he's still got the shed which is now a summerhouse.





FUTURE EVENTS

TUESDAY 5h MAY: Walk and Pub Lunch, The Albert, 57 Kingston Hill, Norbiton KT2 7PX

TUESDAY 19th MAY: Club Lunch. Speaker: Hannah Lumley "Avoiding Scams"