Pro-Biz

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

Issue No 307 News from Teddington and Hampton Probus August 2026

WALK AND PUB LUNCH, THE BARMY ARMS, TWICKENHAM TUESDAY 4th AUGUST 2026



.

There was a good turnout of fourteen people and one canine (Gaia) for the final walk arranged by our current team of organisers.

.

It was a warm but mostly cloudy morning, and we set off along the Twickenham waterfront before cutting through York House gardens. Here we came across some naked ladies cavorting in a fountain, so we joined them for a group photo. These ladies are the "Oceanides" or Greek sea nymphs, and are made of Carrara marble. They're celebrated locally, to the extent of having an ale named after them made by Twickenham Brewery. The statues were installed in 1909 by the last private owner of York House, Sir Ratan Tata, who was a leading Indian businessman and philanthropist.

We continued along the attractive streets nearby and then headed through Orleans House gardens, passing the gallery, and across some woodland to reach Orleans Road where there were more quaint houses to admire.

After walking through Marble Hill park, which Gaia enjoyed as she was allowed off the lead, we returned to the Barmy Arms along the riverside. Here fifteen of us had a convivial lunch on their covered terrace.

LUNCH TALK "ELVIN, A DUNKIRK LITTLE SHIP" by DR HYWEL BOWEN-PERKINS, TUESDAY 21st JULY 2026



Built in 1937, the motor yacht Elvin is just 35 feet long and nine feet wide.
Her skipper for the Dunkirk evacuation was a retired Aberdeen fisherman, aided by a retired Royal Navy Lt. Commander who was an engine specialist. She sailed from Lowestoft on 31st May 1940 and returned from Dunkirk on 3rd June with eight British and twenty-five French troops aboard, and was crewed by just 4 men.

Hywel had rescued Elvin from certain destruction in Portugal where the owner was trying to sell the ship's engines, if not for the actions of the marina advertising Elvin, Hywel would not have found her and brought her back to England.
Hywel had clearly spent some time researching her history, even contacting the families of her previous owners and the boatyard that built her, he also spent an (undisclosed) sum of money restoring her to a condition where he and his family were able to spend a few holidays on her including two passages around mainland Britain. On the first passage she visited Barton on Humber, the yard where she was built and met with the grandson of the builder.

Elvin had a walk on (?) role in the 2017 film "Dunkirk", and a starring role in a 2014 TV programme with Adrian Edmondson. She has taken part in the return visits to Dunkirk with the surviving veterans (none left now) and regularly attends the Classic Boat Rally in St Catherine's Dock, London.

FUTURE EVENTS

WEDNESDAY 9th SEPTEMBER: Twickenham Brewery tour – see flyer

TUESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER: CLUB LUNCH, Speaker Michael Harris: "Strawberry Hill House"