

RETIREMENT CLUB NEWSLETTER

May 2016 No 321

Manton Lane MK41 7PF

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April Walk – Trevor & Christine Turvey



On what proved to be the warmest day of the year, so far, 23 walkers gathered at The Red Lion, Yardley Hastings for a circular route of just under 5.5 miles.

From the pub we turned right to walk northbound along the length of the High Street of this pretty, stone-built village to a point where the walkway was raised high above the road level, with protective railings. Near to the end of this section we took a footpath to the right, first ascending steep steps before a narrow passage between houses brought us to open pasture, having climbed our first stile. We then walked in an easterly direction towards two adjacent gates in the far corner of this field, scattering the ewes and their lambs in the process. Ignoring the gate on the left we went through another ahead of us and started along a well-defined track, lengthy, uphill and muddy to reach the corner of Cold Oak Copse. With the wood on our left we walked ahead along its southern boundary, noticing some bluebells were in flower and, when we reached its end, continued along the good path crossing a brook and passing a large derelict barn. We then arrived in the corner of a field close by Horn Wood and at this point turned sharp left to follow the path, with the field hedge now on our right side, until it merged with a no-through road in the village of Easton Maudit. This is the place where the actor, Derek Nimmo, had a home and is now buried in the churchyard there. Walking up this road we came to a footpath crossing near to an attractive thatched cottage, where the group photo was taken, and we then took the path to the left into another field of sheep. Leaving that field we followed a clear farm track onto a minor road, which we crossed and followed the track for a further 2 fields before turning left onto a grassy path immediately before a brook crossing. Following this brook we reached another road crossing, our second stile and continued over raised earthworks. Keeping the same brook on the right the well-defined path was followed back to Yardley Hastings, where we turned left onto the road to head back towards the pub. We diverted the return route onto a back road to see another aspect of this picturesque village.

May Walk - Wednesday 11 May 2016

Keith Rose will lead this walk which starts from "The Cock" in Pavenham, MK43 7NJ. We will be walking along beside the river towards Stevington and hoping to enjoy looking at the bluebells near there. One section of the walk, where there is a spring near the path, is always wet. Please meet at the usual time of 10:15am for a 10:30 start.

The 2016 ARC Lunch

The Annual lunch was held at The Woodlands Hotel, Clapham on April 21st and was very ably organised by Trevor and Christine Tumber.

Twenty one ARC members and the ARA Chief Executive, Dougie Hunter, attended.

Before the lunch our Chairman, Bruce Price, welcomed everybody and thanked them all for coming. He then proposed a toast to Her Majesty the Queen on this her 90th Birthday.

A very enjoyable lunch was then served followed by Dougie Hunter giving a brief talk on the current situation at ARA. He said that 2015 had been an 'interesting' year and because of Government spending reviews everything had gone very quiet from the middle of the year. However he was pleased to report that a new, very large, contract had been signed this February with the work likely to last at least 5 years. He was also hoping that Government Funding would allow the much needed upgrade of facilities, something that ARA were unable to fund themselves.

He also talked about the difficulties surrounding defence work and some markets and said that civil aviation work was very quiet. However he was very proud that ARA are now leaders in two new technologies, Visualization Techniques and Gusts in the Transonic tunnel. He was confident that this would bring in further work. Therefore there is a very positive outlook for at least the short term future.

Dougie also spoke about the workforce saying that there are currently 150 employees, nine of whom are apprentices. These are trained to a very high level at ARA as it is very difficult to recruit at the level of excellence required. As soon as apprentices finish then more are recruited.

Bruce thanked Dougie who was given a round of applause.

Micro Brewery visit on Wednesday 15th June starting 7.30pm

The brewery tour consists of a talk about the brewery and brewing generally, together with the opportunity to sample and enjoy all their beers plus a few snacks in the brewery setting.

The tour lasts for approx. 2 hours. The Brewery need a minimum of 10 people with a maximum of 30. Cost is £12 per head. The address is :-

Ampthill Brewhouse,
Unit D The Sidings,
Station Rd Ind.Est
Ampthill, MK45 2QY

Station Road Industrial Estate just off the A507 bypass. From the roundabout follow the road straight down Station Road, the road turns a sharp left, the entrance to their car park is immediately on the right. Follow the car park to the right hand side and you will see the entrance door. (If using SatNav please ensure that it is set for the estate not central Amphill, Station Road in town is now a dead end!)

Booking form

Name :
Number of People :
Address :
Contact telephone number :

Please make your cheque payable to "ARA Retirement Club" and send your cheque and booking form to :

Bruce Price,
91 Whitworth Way,
Wilstead,
Bedford
MK45 3EF

Closing date 16th May 2016

FORTHCOMING EVENTS	
Wednesday 11 May 2016, 10:15	May Walk, The Cock, Pavenham
Wednesday 15 June 2016, 19:30	Microbrewery visit, Amphill

Please send any copy for publication to me by the 15th of the month, Keith Rose

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MINUTES OF THE 27th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ARA RETIREMENT CLUB HELD AT THE QUEENS HEAD, MILTON ERNEST ON THURSDAY 21st APRIL 2016

Members Present: Russell and Alma Berrington, Ted Carter, Mike and Chris Lock, Pam Marsden, George and Joy Paterson, Gerry and Joyce Pauley, Otmar and Sheila Pozniak, Bruce Price, Keith Rose, Ebb Smith, Trevor and Christine Tumber, Aubrey and Janet Underwood, Marylyn and Ray Wood.

In the chair Bruce Price

Apologies for Absence

Margaret Stokes

Approval of the Minutes of the 26th AGM,

The approval of the minutes of the previous AGM as published in the June 2015 Newsletter was unanimously passed as an accurate record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

The Club has been rather quiet this year with the proposed Chester Farm trip being postponed to this year. The regular activities took place consisting of the monthly walks that were well supported and Tony Dickason ran his usual informal meetings in Clapham. The Annual Lunch was combined with the AGM.

Treasurer's Report

Ray Wood presented the accounts for the period 1st April 2015 to 21st April 2016. The balance at the beginning was £564.17 and on 21st April 2016 £513.65, a loss of £50.52. This was mainly accounted for by the annual newsletter postings.

Although we have requested a donation from ARA this has not yet been forthcoming but as we still have sufficient funds for the present time no further request will be made in the immediate future.

A copy of the Financial Statement was available for scrutiny.

The accounts were approved unanimously by the meeting.

Election of Officers and Committee members

Chris Lock has decided to stand down from the committee and the chairman thanked her for her hard work over the years. Ebb Smith had agreed to take on the role of Secretary and was voted in unanimously by those present.

There were no additional nominations and the rest of the committee were prepared to stay in post. The new committee was unanimously passed by those attending the AGM.

The committee now comprises Bruce Price, Chairman and Walks Coordinator, Ray Wood, Treasurer, Ebb Smith, Secretary, Keith Rose, Newsletter Editor, Marylyn Wood, Trevor Tumber and Gerry Pauley.

Future Activities

The chairman stated that the walks and informal meetings would continue and also reminded people of the Trip to the Ampthill Brewhouse in June to include a guided tour and nibbles.

Marylyn reported that she was very hopeful that the visit to Chester Farm near Rushden will take place late July or August. There were no visits to the site last year but they are anticipating having some this year.

Marylyn also took the opportunity to tell the meeting about the open garden charity event they will be running in aid of Marie Curie. Their garden will be open on 19th and 20th July both in the afternoon and evening. The cost is £5 for any session with either afternoon tea or wine and cheese in the evening.

More about these events will appear in the monthly newsletter in due course.

The chairman stated that any ideas from members for future events would be very welcome.

Chris Lock suggested a visit to the Bedford School Observatory and Planetarium. These visits are for up to 19 people and are free.

She also suggested a visit to Royston Cave, man-made in the 13th century and containing an extensive range of wall carvings.

No further suggestions were made.

Any Other Business

The chairman then thanked the committee for their work during the last year particularly Chris Lock, Keith Rose for his excellent work on the newsletter and Trevor and Christine Tumber for organizing the Lunch.

Bruce Price was also thanked from the floor.

The Meeting was then closed by the Chairman..