

## 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Report

Dear KOBs

Sorry for the delay however I have now got round to presenting here an account of our fourth meeting held at the Falstaff Hotel, Canterbury on the Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2011.

The format of this meeting was similar to those previous meetings in Maidstone, however the Falstaff only do a limited sandwich menu to cover lunchtime functions. The arrangements were very satisfactory with a dining area being put aside for us to convene our gathering. We had a respectable turn out of members by 20 OBs attended and I had received 15 apologies for absence.

We had a few new faces present which was good, although because of our change of venue a number of our Maidstone regulars were unable to attend.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Eddie Hardy (Mda 45-52) for suggesting this venue that allowed us to bring the meeting to Eastern Kent.

Whilst the lunch menu was rather limited the quality of food beverages and hospitality were judged to be more than adequate

Our attendees came from all over the county and it was good to see people from South East London making the effort to get there. This showed the advantage of trying to base our meeting venues near good public transport hubs.

The meeting convened itself into small groups at tables, where they took their lunches and lots of different threads of conversation ensued.

We then had a communal discussion covering the usual topics, primarily the lack of younger attendees, future meeting venues and the possibility of having organised outings.

I had to report to the meeting that I have had a very disappointing response to my published calls for alternative venues both for the current format of gathering and more dynamic venues for evening and weekends. When I say disappointing what I mean is NONE! As I have said in the past our group is going to be characterised by its membership, so if what we currently do is not for you, for whatever reason, please contact me with your thoughts and ideas. I need and want to hear from you. I'm open to any suggestions and I don't want any KOBs to feel excluded.

It was noted that recently the East Sussex group have conducted organised outings. We discussed this as a possibility and I will be getting in touch with East Sussex to pick their brains on the best way of organising this type of event. We did cover some venues ranging from National Trust or English Heritage sites through to a visit to the CH museum. I personally like Keith Mills's brewery suggestion – but then I would.

I know as a result of our last meeting a good number of suggestions were put forward and I acknowledge that I for one have not been a pro-active as I should have been in exploring

them. Over the next few months I shall make the effort required to try and get some momentum into this quest.

Given the success of this change of venue I am hoping to find our next meeting location in the south east London / Kent border area.

I will post the next meeting date and venue over the next few weeks.



As you can see we had a very happy gathering, however I can't say in public what was making them smile.

Many thanks for your attendance and support and don't forget to keep coming up with ideas.

Until our next meeting

Regards

Richard Briggs