



## A summer of Welcome Walks

**T**he Horsham Society Walk through the history of Horsham town centre commenced in April 2016 with the final planned Walk this year on the last Wednesday of September.

The Walks need no booking and have taken place every Wednesday and Sunday with a start time of 2.30pm. The meeting place for the Walk is outside the Horsham Museum in the Causeway which is where it ends. Additional Walks have been arranged for small groups on request.

The Walk explains that the history of Horsham starts back in 947AD as a place where horses were held and bred and it was an outlier of the Saxon Manor of Washington. Horsham became a Borough around 1200 and in 1295 the owners of the 52 burgage plots of land sited around the Carfax elected two Members of Parliament. The owners of the burgage plots controlled the elections, votes were bought and sold and because of this Horsham became known as one of the rotten boroughs.

The first stop on the Walk is the old Market House in Market Square now known as the Town Hall which originally



**A recent by arrangement Walk took place for the members of one of the Probus Clubs in Horsham**

was an open market arcade for poultry and butter. The building was also used as an Assize Court by Judges on the southern circuit by boarding up the openings.

The Walk proceeds through Pump Alley and takes in East Street, Denne Road and Piries Place.

The Walk also takes in West Street, Lynd Cross, the Forum, St Mary's Church, and

Hewell's Manor opposite the museum where the Walk finishes.

A recent by arrangement Walk took place for the members of one of the Probus Clubs in Horsham together with their wives and partners. The Walk was well attended and took two hours because of the number of questions raised by those attending and comments from their local knowledge.

The Probus Clubs are for active retired men with a background in business, commerce, industry or public sector and aim to promote informal fellowship and companionship amongst its members.

The Probus Club of Horsham & District which took our Walk holds its meetings on the first Thursday of each month between 10am and 12.30pm at Horsham Cricket Club. After the meeting a number of members enjoy a lunch together currently in the bar at the Warnham Barn, Rookwood Golf Club. Further details from the club secretary David Lomas on 01403 823268.

Reports back from Horsham residents and visitors joining the Walk has been very complimentary, saying they take more pleasure when walking about the town now they know more of its history.

Everyone is welcome so why not join one of the Welcome Walks next summer.

*The Horsham Society is concerned about the past, present and future of the town. It seeks to promote good planning and design for the built environment and open spaces. Membership of the Horsham Society is open to anyone who shares these concerns. For more information, visit the website [www.horshamsociety.org](http://www.horshamsociety.org) or phone 01403 261905.*