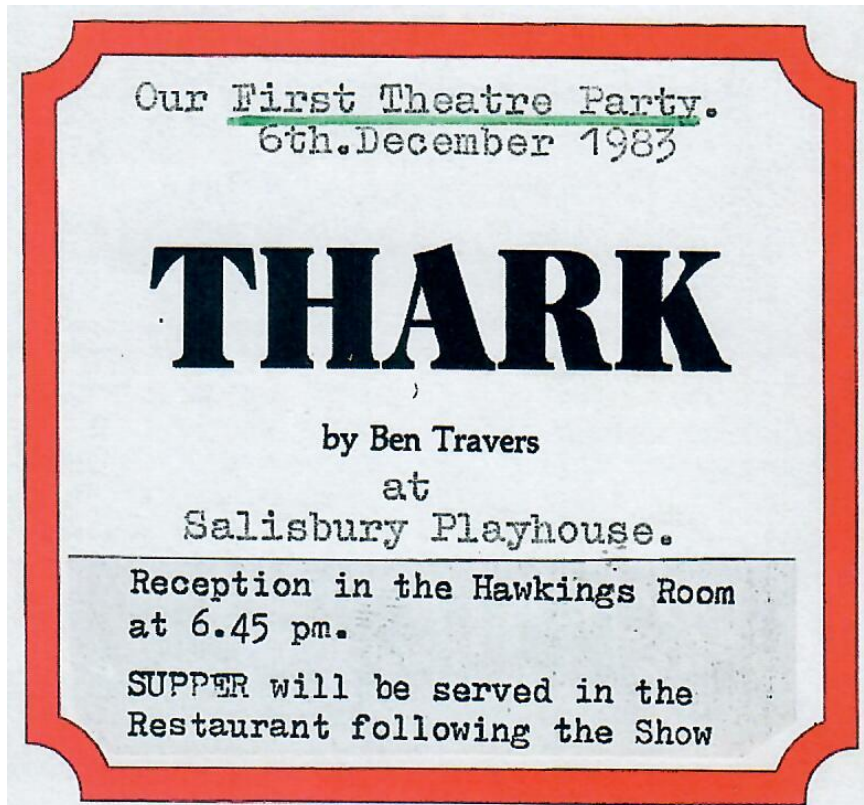




PROBUS VISITS (PART 1 1983-1995)

Visits have played an important part of the Club's activities. Most of the information in this section came from photos or other records put together by others. Where the information has been verified from other sources, the reference is included.

The first Club visit was on 6 December **1983**.



The first summer outing was to Bowood House and Sheldon Manor on 20 June **1984**.

Bowood House was built circa 1725 and it then passed to Henry Long and in 1754 to the first Earl of Shelburne. The 2nd Earl was Prime Minister from 1782 to 1783 and was created Marquess of Lansdowne for negotiating peace with America after the War of Independence. He added an orangery and a small menagerie to keep a leopard and an orangutan as well as a mausoleum for the first Earl. Two parts of the house were joined together but by 1955 the larger part was demolished and the remaining house is open to the public. There is a submerged village in its lake and the grounds are one of Capability Brown's finest parks. A golf course and a hotel have since been opened within the grounds.



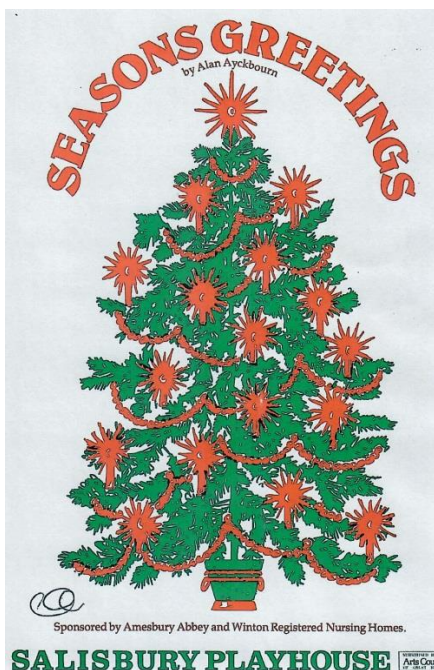
President elect Ken Copping Watching The Girls!

Sheldon Manor is Wiltshire's oldest inhabited manor house and dates back to Saxon times. It has had unbroken occupation since 1282. It is licensed for weddings and hosts summer productions of Shakespeare and operas in the grounds.



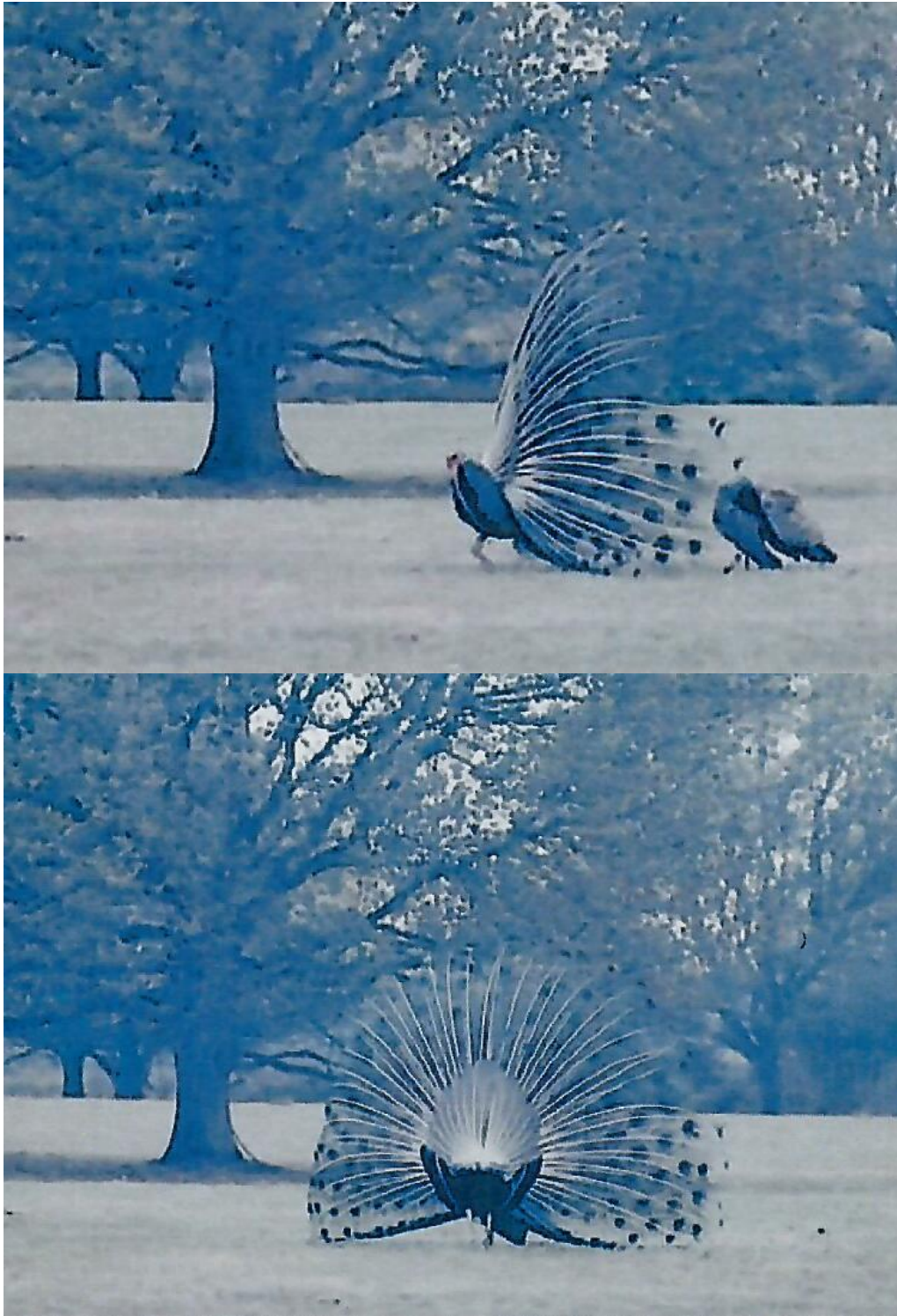
Sheldon Manor, Chippenham.

The second theatre dinner evening took place on 8 December 1984 at the Salisbury Playhouse where it was a splendid social occasion but the play was poor.



A second outside visit took place in the Spring of **1985** to a National Trust property (*AGM Minutes 19 July 1985*)





Courting peacocks on Brownsea Island.

Robert Key, the local MP for Salisbury arranged a visit to the Palace of Westminster on 20 November 1985 (*AGM Minutes 18 July 1986*).

The Club and their ladies attended a matinee performance of 'Move over Mrs Markham' on 7 December 1985 at the Salisbury Playhouse followed by an evening meal (*AGM Minutes 18 July 1986*).

The Club visited the Salisbury Museum on 22 January **1986** (*AGM Minutes 18 July 1986*).

On 7 May 1986, a visit was made to Windsor Castle and the Railway Station Museum (*AGM Minutes 18 July 1986*).

On 17 October 1986, Littlecote Manor, now known as Littlecote House, was visited in Hungerford (*AGM Minutes 17 July 1987*). It is a large Elizabethan Country House. It has had a number of owners and during the Second World War was the headquarters of the 34th Army Tank Brigade and housed the US 101st Airborne Division as well the 1st Battalion 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment. Since 1996 it operates as a country house hotel and resort.



A theatre outing with the ladies was planned for 6 November 1986 to see ‘Rookery Nook’ followed by dinner (*AGM 17 July 1987*).

In April **1987** a visit was made to the Army Flying Museum in Hendon, London (*AGM Minutes 17 July 1987*)

The Club visited Kingston Lacy a country house near Wimborne Minster on 29 July 1987 (*AGM Minutes 15 July 1988*). It was part of the Bankes family estate from mid-1600’s before the house was bequeathed to the National Trust in 1982 along with Corfe Castle following the death of Henry Bankes. It houses fine art and antiques and has formal gardens.



Members and wives outside the House.

21 November 1987 theatre visit (*AGM Minutes 15 July 1988*)

A Members only visit took place to Wilton Felt Mills on 22 February **1988** (*AGM Minutes 15 July 1988*).

A visit took place to Stratfield Saye on 15 June 1988 (*AGM Minutes 15 July 1988*).

On 5 November 1988, there was a visit to the theatre (*AGM Minutes 15 July 1988*).

In the Spring of **1989** a farm visit took place with the ladies (*AGM Minutes 4 August 1989*).

Suggested explore a trip to Highclere Castle (*AGM Minutes 4 August 1989*).

Trips planned to Arundel on 29 September 1989 and the theatre on 25 November 1989 (*AGM Minutes 4 August 1989*).

18 May **1990**, a trip in a vessel behind the trimaran was organised along Southampton Water (*AGM 20 July 1990*). This was the start of a number of nautical visits.



26 November 1990, Salisbury Playhouse theatre plus a meal afterwards (*AGM minutes 19 July 1991*).

17 May **1991**, a trip along the Kennett and Avon Canal took place with 37 in attendance (*AGM Minutes 19 July 1991*).



On 6 September 1991, visit to the Church at Downton and other places of interest (*AGM Minutes 19 July 1991*).

During 1991 to **1992**, there were visits to the Salisbury Playhouse theatre with dinner, two meetings at the Martin Club House in the village of Martin, the Pavilion Bournemouth to see a performance of *Fiddler on the Roof* by the Bournemouth and Boscombe Operatic Society and a trip to Harveys Museum in Bristol (*AGM Minutes 7 August 1992*).

June 1992 members and wives became nautical antiquarians including the Sea Fort at Bristol.



The ship was the longest passenger ship in the world from 1845 to 1854. Designed by Brunel for the Great Western Steamship Company for service between Bristol and New York.



On 12 November 1992, a theatre visit for the performance of Ten Times Table with a poor attendance of 22 (*AGM Minutes 16 July 1993*).

The Christmas Lunch with the Ladies was held on 11 December 1992 at Salisbury Rugby Club (*AGM Minutes 16 July 1993*).

A visit to Park Farm Nurseries on 19 February **1993** and talk given on Bedding Plants followed by lunch (*AGM Minutes 16 July 1993*).

In March 1993 an evening visit to Bournemouth Pavilion to see Pajama Game performed by the Bournemouth and Boscombe Light Opera Company and to the Wessex Hall in Poole for a performance given by the Wessex Youth Orchestra (*AGM Minutes 16 July 1993*).

A summer outing on 16 June 1993 to Spithead and the Submarine Museum (*AGM Minutes 16 July 1993*).

The Christmas Lunch was held on 10 December 1993 at Salisbury Rugby Club (*AGM Minutes 5 August 1994*).

A visit on 9 March **1994** to Bournemouth Pavilion for a performance of South Pacific (*AGM Minutes 5 August 1994*).

On 18 July 1994, a visit with 60 in attendance to Weymouth and the STS Lord Nelson, a training ship completed in 1986 (*AGM Minutes 5 August 1994*).













The 1994 Christmas Lunch with the ladies was held at Salisbury Rugby Club and an additional lunch with the Ladies was held at Salisbury and South Wilts Golf Club at which Major General Dixon gave a talk on St George's Chapel Windsor (*AGM Minutes 21 July 1995*).

February **1995** a visit to Downton Tannery and a talk by Andrew Lunt (*AGM Minutes 21 July 1995*). The Tannery was closed in 1998 and converted into apartments.



In 1995 a visit to Bournemouth to see a performance of My Fair Lady (*AGM Minutes 21 July 1995*).

There was also a visit to Longford Castle preceded by lunch at Salisbury & South Wilts Golf Club and the Christmas lunch was also at the same Golf Club (*AGM Minutes 19 July 1996*).