



THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

President's Jottings



Welcome to the Summer edition of the newsletter, my first as your President. Thank you all for your help and good wishes. Taking on something new is always easier when surrounded by friends.

Change, and coping with it, seems to be a favourite table topic at our lunches. 'How things have changed...' 'Back in our day...' Usually with more good humour than grumbling, we exchange experiences of things like online banking, downloading apps and multi-channel tv. Keeping up with it all can be a challenge, but I'm proud to have successfully ordered our first Uber taxi ride the other day in Brighton. He arrived so quickly, we only just made it to the pick-up point around the corner from our hotel – a bit like running for the bus!

There's change even at the top, with our new (but not so young) King Charles crowned, heralding a new era perhaps. Will Charles one day hand over to William and retire to enjoy his Highgrove garden, or maybe join his local Probus Club?

Thank goodness then for our Probus Club – a reassuring oasis of calm and companionship in comfortable surroundings. In the following pages you'll see that your committee has been working hard to line up a fine programme of stimulating talks and varied social events. These help to make the club attractive to newcomers, and it has been good to welcome several new members in recent months. So, enjoy your Probus!

With best wishes
James

Social Secretary Report Dec 2023 to May 2023.

Our Christmas lunch for 2022 was arranged at the Miramar Hotel in Bournemouth and we had 59 people in attendance. A full three course lunch was provided to include a Turkey with all the trimmings and Pampettes of Plaice and a Vegetable Wellington as alternatives, as part of a three course meal, offering with starters and deserts including Christmas Pudding to complete the feast.

The stars of the event were the Diamond Divas, a group of retired ladies collecting funds for Macmillan Caring Locally, supported by the lone male providing music with a Christmas theme to accompany seasonal monologues, songs and poetry as their entertainment. There was a chance for members to join in with some of the Carols and the day was enjoyed by all. The club donated £65 to the charity and on the day the ladies 'passed the hat around' and a further £200+ was collected.

January skittles at the New Milton Conservative Club was arranged for the 26th and 30 members and partners took part in what has become an annual tradition for the club. The competition was fierce and the winner this year was the Reverend Graham Newton with the help of the man upstairs perhaps! A close second was Colin Dobson and David Brand was third. The winner has the trophy and all three took home a bottle each of good French sparkling wine. Basket meals were ordered by the members, and all enjoyed this daytime event.

February Social Activity was the Presidents Lunch this year held at The Lord Bute Restaurant on the 23rd of the month. A total of 57 attended to thank Richard Porter for his 18 months of responsibility as President of the club and from Richard for support of members and committee for safe stewardship and for expanding the club back to 50 plus members following the rigours of Covid and lockdowns. The food is always exceptional at the Lord

Bute and ordering from a bespoke menu at the table is always a special touch saving the organiser from having to establish a pre order schedule!!!

March social at the Cliffhanger in Highcliffe saw members gathered for coffee and cake and 20 plus attended. We were pleased to see a few of our newer members of the club who had the opportunity to meet and mix with established club members at an informal gathering.

In April we gathered at The Carpenters Arms, Bransgore on the 20th of the month which was a great success with 33 members and partners in attendance. A wide choice of good food was on offer to be pre ordered as a main and dessert. The delivery of meals in a timely fashion is one of the strengths of this pub and it is regularly used by many of our members and understandably so. They did us proud!

May Social activity is yet to come, when on the 23rd we will be enjoying a return boat trip from Poole Quay to Wareham on the River Frome. The boat will be docked at Wareham for a little over an hour giving members a change for a brief wander around the immediate town centre. Members are encouraged to take a picnic with them which they can enjoy on the boat or eat by the riverside at Wareham.

We are sharing the boat with Twynham Probus which means we now have sufficient numbers to ensure that we have exclusive use of the Boat. We have a Probus only boat trip!!

Probus Club of Christchurch Activity Schedule 2023/4

(Thursdays unless stated) (Club Meetings at Christchurch Harbour Hotel first Tuesday of each month.)

2023

June

6th Probus Lunch with our Ladies at Christchurch Harbour Hotel.

July

4th Club Meeting.
18th Christchurch Regent Centre Tour.

August.

1st Club Meeting.
17th Picnic in New Forest (Wilverly Plain)

September

5th Club Meeting.
19th Tour of Highcliffe Castle.

October.

3rd Club Meeting
6th to 9th Presidents Weekend Away, Warner Hotels, Bembridge Coast IOW.
21st Probus Quiz Night. Mudeford Masonic Hall (Saturday)

November

7th Club Meeting
16th or 23rd TBA.

December

5th Club Meeting
13th Probus Christmas Lunch Miramar Hotel (Wednesday) But may consider alternative Such as Lord Bute.

2024

January

2nd Club Meeting.
18th Coffee Morning Venue TBA.

February.

6th Club Meeting
22nd Presidents Lunch Venue TBA, Lord Bute ??

March.

5th Club Meeting.
21st Skittles New Milton Conservative Club.

April.

2nd Club Meeting.
25th Spring Lunch Venue TBA

May.

7th Club Meeting.

SPEAKERS JULY - DECEMBER 2023

July 2023

Chris Walker – The Great American Songbook

Our meeting happens to fall on July 4th - American Independence Day – so what better way to celebrate this than by hearing the first of a series of talks from Chris Walker on ‘The Great American Songbook’. With the help of rare archive and video material, Chris will illustrate just how the great songs of the 20th century were originated and performed.

Chris is well known in the local jazz scene, playing the clarinet and fronting ‘The Chris Walker Swingtet’.

August 2023

Kevin Patience – The Man Who Never Was

Kevin’s life story could be a talk in itself – grew up in Kenya, served in the RAF, became a commercial diver, and latterly has published several books on military history.

Members may be partly familiar with the subject of his talk, as it has been made into a film. Code named Operation Mincemeat, in April 1943 a body dressed as a Royal Marine officer with briefcase was deliberately washed ashore in Spain, designed to fool the Germans that the allies planned to invade Greece and not Sicily. Kevin tells us that he will give ‘the true story of this deception’!

September 2023

Alan Pickford – The People’s Mosquito

Members may recall that our speaker last October was Des Curtis, who we have come to know as he is the Speaker Secretary at Bournemouth 1 Probus Club. Des had a distinguished war record, having completed over 70 sorties as the navigator in a de Havilland Mosquito, and was awarded the DFC.

Des in turn has introduced us to Alan Pickford who is heavily involved in the building of a new Mosquito through private funding – the first Mosquito to be produced in the UK for more than

70 years – hence ‘The People’s Mosquito’ which has registered charity status.

October 2023

Mark Watts – Winchester Prison – Past and Present

Last year’s Probus holiday in Dartmoor included a memorable visit to the museum at Dartmoor Prison, so Mark’s talk should make an appropriate follow-up.

He is the former head of security at Winchester Prison, and gives a talk based on his experiences, which is both informative and amusing.

November 2023

Steve Parselle – The Life of an Army Chaplain

Steve is a retired Anglican priest, who was an Army Chaplain for many years. He is known to a number of our members, having given talks locally about some of his experiences – often humorous ones - during those times. Steve has many stories to share!

December 2023

Ken Fowler – The Yodare Sailing Challenge

‘Yodare’ was an epic sailing challenge to become the first ever single handed dinghy to sail around ALL the islands of England and Wales. That’s a grand total of over 250 islands and over 1200 miles of sailing, all in a dinghy as small as two bath tubs – and just as wet! The aim was to raise around £50,000 for Cancer Research and Oakhaven Hospice.

But it was quite a story – as we shall hear!

Robin Haggett Programme Secretary

In Memoriam

The Newsletter is sad to record the deaths of two stalwart Members of The Club

Richard Smith 13.4.1946 - 21.3.2023

John Batchelor 29.3.1940 - 22.3.2023

2023 MENS LUNCHEON CLUB MENUS

Available Every month :-

Plain Chicken Breast or White Fish Fillet,
sides as main dish. Bowls of Vegetables.
Desert—Fruit Salad/Vanilla Ice Cream

JANUARY

Beef Bourguignon, beef braised in red wine with
button mushrooms, pearl onions and bacon, green
beans, and creamy mash.

Vegetables braised in red wine with button
mushrooms, pearl onions and creamy mash. (V)

Spotted Dick and Custard

FEBRUARY

Baked Salmon Fillet, buttered new potatoes greens
and parsley sauce.

Leek and potato pithivier, buttered new potatoes
greens and parsley sauce. (V)

Apple tart and Vanilla ice cream.

MARCH

Slow cooked shoulder of lamb, dauphinoise potatoes,
spinach and roasted cherry tomatoes.

Stuffed aubergine with dauphinoise potatoes, spinach
and roasted cherry tomatoes. (V)

Jam roly poly and custard.

APRIL

Chicken and mushroom pie, Chicken breast and
mushrooms cooked in a creamy white wine sauce and
topped with a buttery puff pastry lid, with new
potatoes and greens.

Spinach and mushroom pie, Spinach and mushrooms
cooked in a creamy white wine sauce and topped with
a buttery puff pastry lid, with new potatoes and greens
(V)

Egg custard tart.

MAY

Sea bream fillet with roast tomato tart tatin, wilted
spinach and pesto.

Roasted tomato, spinach and goats cheese tart. (V)
Rhubarb fool with shortbread crumb.

JUNE

Haddock and salmon fish pie.

Spinach and feta spanakopita. Spinach ricotta and feta
cheese baked in puff pastry. (V)

Apricot and ginger coupe, ginger ice cream, whipped
cream, ginger snap crumb and apricot sauce.

JULY

Confit duck leg with “froggy” peas. Slow cooked duck leg
with peas, pearl onions, braised lettuce and bacon.

Summer vegetable risotto with rocket and parmesan (V)

Strawberries and cream.

AUGUST

Pork fillet with creamy mash and roquefort cheese sauce.

(V) Slow cooked celeriac, topped with a herb crust and
baked, with crushed potatoes, peas and warm tartar sauce.

Summer pudding with clotted cream.

SEPTEMBER

Roast loin of pork with mashed potato, creamed cabbage
and bacon.

Pot roast vegetables, creamed cabbage, mashed potato. (V)

Apple and blackberry crumble with custard.

OCTOBER

Chicken breast coq au vin. Roasted chicken breast with
caramelised onions, mushrooms and bacon in red wine
sauce.

Baked and stuffed field mushrooms. (V)

Sticky toffee pudding, toffee sauce and ice cream.

NOVEMBER

Smoked haddock rarebit, Smoked haddock fillet on a bed
of wilted spinach with mustard and cheese glaze.

Spinach rarebit with poached eggs (V)

Treacle tart with marmalade ice.

DECEMBER

Dex Christmas lunch, slices of turkey and all the
trimmings.

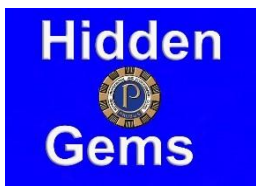
Mushroom and lentil nut roast with all the trimmings (V)

Christmas Pudding with brandy custard.



We have several choices to view member information. The Annual Member list is published in booklet form and distributed at

the April meeting every year. Maurice could provide a copy if you missed the meeting. Since updates to this list are normal a more current list can be viewed on the Websites Member's page. In addition, clicking on the member's name will provide more details including a picture plus member interests together with a Bio (recently added for new members).



Hidden Gems introduced by Ken Heap back in 2019 was extremely popular any member can contribute to this by providing a "Gem"

to Graeme Gibson. Details are on the website.



NEW!

Having difficulty remembering members names?

Clicking on this icon on the Members Page will give you a full PDF picture listing of all current and new prospective members.

This PDF can be printed from the Probus Website.

It will be updated as new information becomes available.

If any member wishes to add information on the Website, please do not hesitate to contact any member on the committee. Roy T.



DANCING ON THE EDGE More Adventures.....

When Graeme asked me for a progress report on Dotty (the horse in which I own a share), I did wonder whether 'progress' was quite the right word! Her last three runs have seen mixed results, to say the least:

In the first, she fell when running strongly. She was being ridden by an apprentice jockey who must have been at fault – I will not of course allow any blame for this to be attributed to Dotty!

In the second she was leading the race (yes – really!) when she made something of a hash of the last two hurdles and finished second.

In the third she finished a very disappointing 8th (out of 14 runners) but appeared to be having breathing difficulties.

Consequently, she may now have some treatment before racing again – possibly in October. Paul Nicholls (the trainer) remains confident that she has a lot of potential and that she will be a better mare for having another summer on her back - so I haven't given up hope!

Robin

And The Stable Report

Good evening Robin,

Dancing On The Edge finished 8th in her race at Taunton yesterday afternoon. It was far from the result we were hoping for but the main thing is she has come back safe and sound.

Bryony informed that 'she's really wising up to her job', that 'the penny is dropping' and that a 'win is on the horizon and I'm hoping for you that it's next time on better ground'.

Dotty didn't seem to get involved in the race from the start, which would suggest that she was having difficulty with the ground. Bryony took her wide with the intention of giving her plenty of daylight at her hurdles and to ensure a good round of jumping. However, this probably didn't end up being as

beneficial as hoped because it used up a lot of dotty's energy.

Conor Houlihan, who was there on behalf of Paul, reported that it 'wasn't the performance we were looking for today but the main thing is that she is home in one piece'. He noted that Bryony said 'her wind gave away, she got caught a bit far back and came home a bit weak'.

Paul, reporting from Aintree, said that 'she hated the tacky ground. He went on to say that 'hindsight is a wonderful thing, I wish I'd not run her, she obviously wants better ground' and that 'on that ground, she made a noise, so she definitely needs a wind op'.

Dotty did well considering she couldn't breathe properly; she still managed to finish her race and travelled better in some places than others. This is a good sign that she enjoys her racing and is a willing partner.

Mr Nicholls has confirmed that Dotty is all good this morning. She has eaten up and has since enjoyed an easy day in the stable, out of the rain.

At the moment, the plan is to give her for a wind op and send her out for a holiday. We would then look to bring her back and get her ready to run in October. Paul is of the opinion that she'll be a better mare for having another summer on her back.

We fight another day!

To be continued.....

And something less serious.....

Albert Einstein was a genius.
However his brother Frank was a monster!

Sister Theresa at the convent was extremely intelligent and knew the answer to everything.
She became known as Nun the Wiser.

A new teacher is marking off the class attendance list and comes across the name HIJKM. 'I'm sorry, I don't know how to pronounce this name he says'

A girl raises her hand and says 'that's me sir - it's

pronounced Noelle'

1st man : A cannibal took my sister to see a Russel Crowe film.

2nd man, Gladiator ??

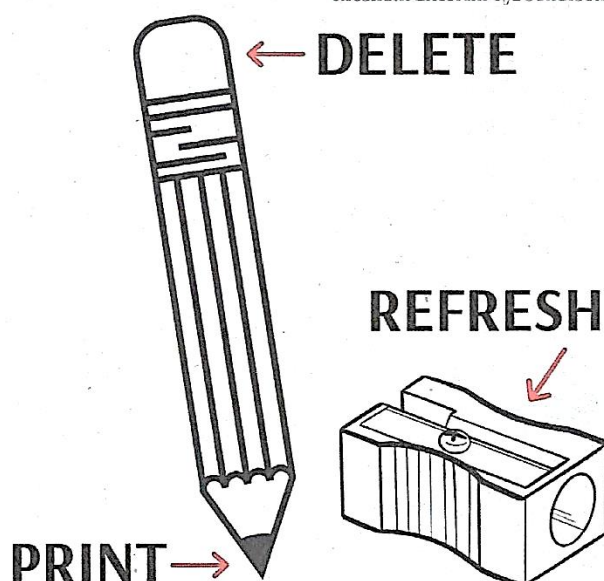
1st man : No, I'm not—I really miss her.

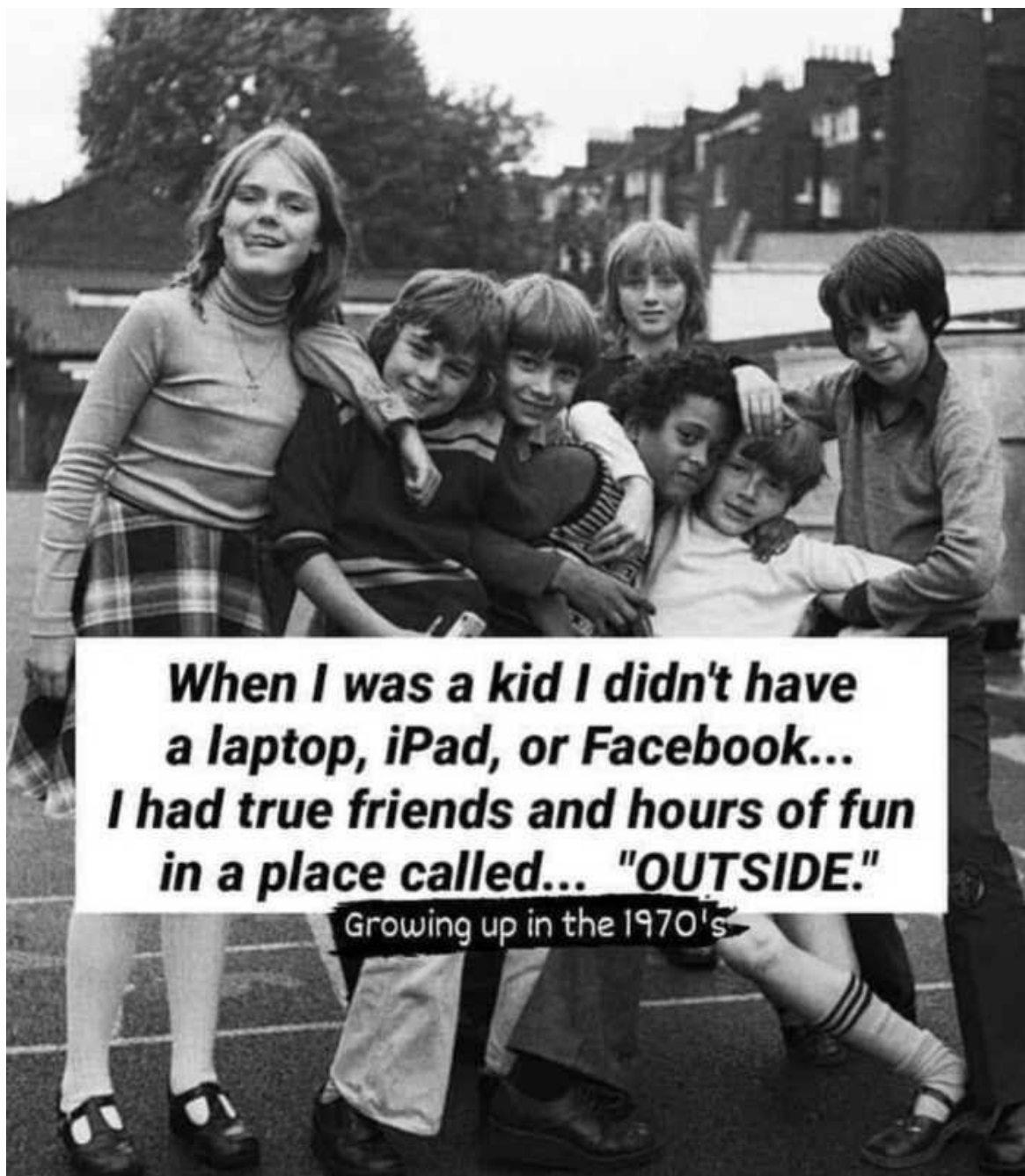
That's enough, apart from some TEAMWORK.



**WHEN I WAS A KID, ■
THIS WAS MY COMPUTER...**

KitchenFunWithMy3Sons.com





***When I was a kid I didn't have
a laptop, iPad, or Facebook...
I had true friends and hours of fun
in a place called... "OUTSIDE."***

Growing up in the 1970's

Probus June 2023

