



## THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)

### NEWSLETTER March 2021

#### President's Jottings



Hi everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter of my year in office. I must start with a 'thank you' to last year's President, Maurice Dowling, who presided over what must be the most frustrating year ever for a President of this

Club. However, along with his Committee, and in particular our Social Secretaries, we were kept involved and entertained via quizzes, picnics, a photographic competition, a car treasure hunt and regular Newsletters.

While my year in office starts in lockdown, I sincerely hope that by the end of my year, life will have returned to what we used to call 'normal', as opposed to 'new normal'! Our Dining Secretary is in regular contact with the Christchurch Harbour Hotel regarding their reopening plans, and our Social Secretaries are already working to secure dates and venues for our Christmas Lunch, President's Lunch and Weekend Away. We also plan to continue with the monthly quiz, Newsletters and anything else our Social Secretaries can dream up before we can meet normally again. To that end any ideas on how to keep all members involved in the Club while we are not meeting would be welcomed.

It was good to see members' faces on my iPad at the recent AGM, where we had around 21 members 'Zoom'ing in, and quite a few ideas being put forward. To discuss these ideas and get updates on the full recommencement of club meetings and social events, your Committee will be holding an extra meeting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March.

I'd also like to thank all the members of this year's

Committee for agreeing to stand for election and I look forward to working with them in doing the best we can on behalf of the Club and all its members.

My personal hopes for the year are that every Club member and their families remain healthy, and that we can return to normal meetings in the not-too-distant future.

My big wish for the year is for every member to . . .  
.. **"Enjoy Your Probus"**.

Best Wishes,  
**Keith Puttick President**

#### Your Committee for 2021/2

President: Keith Puttick  
Vice President: Richard Porter  
Secretary: David Dunsmore  
Treasurer: Graham Newton  
Social Secretary: Richard Smith  
Social Secretary: Keith Rutherford  
Programme Secretary: Robin Haggett  
Dining Secretary: Cliff Putterford  
Press and Media Secretary: James Robertson  
Webmaster: Roy Townshend  
Welfare Officer&Asst.Webmaster: Maurice Dowling

#### Important Password Change

The password you need to access the Members/Photogallery pages on the website has changed to:

**Pr0bus12**

In future it will be changed once a year on 1<sup>st</sup> January, rather than twice a year.

Also, to make it easier to remember, there will be just two numbers at the end, rather than four.

The numbers are the year in reverse.  
Hope this makes sense!

*Roy Townshend, Webmaster*





## Roy Townshend seeks answers to life's big questions...

*\* If you take an Oriental person and spin him around several times, does he become disoriented?*

*\* If people from Poland are called Poles, why aren't people from Holland called Holes?*

*\* Do infants enjoy infancy as much as adults enjoy adultery?*

*\* If a pig loses its voice, is it disgruntled?*

*\* If love is blind, why is lingerie so popular?*

*\* When cheese gets its picture taken, what does it say?*

*\* Why is a person who plays the piano called a pianist but a person who drives a racing car not called a racist?*

*\* Why do 'overlook' and 'oversee' mean opposite things?*

*\* 'I am' is reportedly the shortest sentence in the English language. Could it be that 'I do' is the longest sentence?*

*\* You never really learn to swear until you learn to drive.*

*\* No one ever says, 'It's only a game' when their team is winning.*

*\* Isn't making a smoking section in a restaurant like making a peeing section in a swimming pool?*

*\* Why, if you send something by road it is called a shipment, but when you send it by sea it is called cargo?*

### Quotable Quips from Keith Puttick:

A member of Parliament to Disraeli: "Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease."

"That depends, Sir," said Disraeli, "whether I embrace your policies or your mistress."

*"He has no enemies but is intensely disliked by his friends."* Oscar Wilde



### An Unusual Christmas Present

You may be interested to hear about the very unusual Christmas present that I received this year from my wife May.

She bought me a .....wait for it..... racehorse – or rather, a share in one!

My dad was a keen follower of National Hunt racing, and I have always retained an interest.

Dancing on Edge is a 3 year old filly, in training with Paul Nicholls, the leading National Hunt trainer. She has been broken in, and done a few weeks' training including some light cantering and schooling. The plan is to run her in a National Hunt flat race in about May, with a view to hurdling next season.



DANCING ON THE EDGE

I receive a weekly update and video from the stables, and they are pleased with the way in which she is maturing. She has a long, athletic walk, with they tell me 'the raw physicality to go on to big things' – although I must say the words 'proof', 'pudding', and 'eating' do spring to mind!

*Robin Haggett*

### Having a Tattoo.

I don't think I'll ever understand women.

You beg and plead for months and months until they finally give in and say: "Well I hate them, but if you must have a tattoo, then have one. Just stop banging on about it." So you have one. Then they're moaning about people playing bagpipes on the front lawn.

*Maurice Dowling*

## Photographic Competition

Well done to Chris Mosley and Maurice Dowling for scooping the top places between them. Here they share the secrets of their success.

### 1<sup>st</sup> No.209 'Hengistbury Head' by Chris Mosley



"I took that last winter (early January) with my (then) Canon camera and a Tamron 16 - 300 lens set at 120 mm (full frame equivalent) - should that be of interest.

I played about it with it in Photoshop quite a lot, especially by choosing a letterbox format.

I was just on the north side of the board-walk as can be seen. The red-jacketed man was a vital and unplanned bonus. Lastly I added the border."

### 2<sup>nd</sup> No.212 'A black & white scene'

by Maurice Dowling



"It was taken on my mobile, while we were out on a walk for exercise.

Some members may recognize it- this is Lakewood in Highcliffe, an overlooked local lake right on our doorstep.

It was taken 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 on a clear winter's day. I modified it into a black and white photo."

### 3<sup>rd</sup> No.216 'Blackwater, New Forest'

by Chris Mosley



"I took my camera for a walk here on a fantastic day for photography - it would have been hard to take a dud photo as nature showed the onset of winter wonderfully well.

By then (17<sup>th</sup> November 2020) I'd swapped my camera for a Fuji XT-30 with basic/kit lens (good in my view). Focal length equivalent of 31 mm. I always check that I'm happy by opening my photos in Photoshop, but apart from adding a border, there wasn't very much tweaking".

## Where am I ?

I'm going to take you back to 1953, Coronation year. In March of that year I was conscripted for National Service and being at that time an employee of Barclays Bank, I was enlisted in the Royal Army Pay Corps (RAPC), whose regimental motto bore the words 'FIDE ET FIDUCIA' which, as all you Latin scholars know, translates as 'Fiddled and found correct'!

Following ten weeks' basic training at the corps barracks in Devizes, my first posting was to the regimental pay office in Nottingham, which being close to my home town of Leicester, enabled me to hitch-hike home most weekends.

However, this idyllic arrangement came to a shuddering halt when I received an overseas posting!!

On a very cold, foggy morning in December, about nine days before Christmas (my first one away from home, followed by my second one in 1954!) I was flown out from Stanstead airfield in an Avro York aircraft, (four Rolls Royce Merlin engines) a top speed of 296mph and a ceiling of 10,000ft (no pressurised cabin), eventually arriving at my destination in complete darkness.

I'm not going to say anymore at this point but it was most important that family and friends should know my address and this is what I was allowed to send them:-

Number. 22855539 (you never ever forget this!)  
Name. Taylor C  
Rank: Private  
Address: MELF 17

From this information can you tell me:-

- 1) What words do the postcode letters stand for?
- 2) Where did the plane land?
- 3) What country was I in?
- 4) What was the name of the nearest town?
- 5) What was the name of the nearby lake?
- 6) What is the correct translation of the regimental motto?

I know that one club member will probably know the answers, but the rest of you start looking and send me an email with your results. Please let me know where I am! *Chris Taylor*

## Island Holidays

**Scillies:** Diane and I did manage to take a holiday “abroad” in September last. A week in the Scillies! Most enjoyable. Covid unknown down there - and only 2 cases known since, I think - the authorities were, and continue to be, very severe on any infringements! We were on a boat trip one day when, passengers having been asked at the outset to wear face-masks, the skipper, who had been chatting away telling us all about the various islands, islets and rocks that we were passing, suddenly stopped in mid-sentence and said, in tones very unfriendly, “I asked you all to wear face masks. Some of you are not! Put them on immediately - or we return, immediately, to St. Mary’s and you will be taken straight to the Police Station, arrested and escorted back to the mainland - today!” The defaulters soon complied!!

As to future holidays, we have twice had a Med. cruise postponed and doubt that the re-scheduled July date will be fulfilled!

*Les Denmead*

**Philippines:** We’re going back to the Philippines. Ten thousand kilometres to the east. It’s October 2019, in a pre-pandemic world. Well I was going back, but for the Christchurch Probus Secretary, it’s a first visit.

Ice cold G&Ts get us under way. Location, the Manila Hotel’s Tap Room, the hotel that American general “I shall return” Douglas MacArthur made his HQ before fleeing from the invading Japanese.



Then a wander round the capital’s historic Fort Santiago, power base for the long-time Spanish rulers. The fort, with its walls shredded by British cannonballs, lies not far from the world’s first Chinatown outside of the Middle Kingdom. The capital’s streets are crowded. The ubiquitous Filipino jeepney buses are packed. Street vendors ensure you never need go hungry or thirsty.



Next up for the intrepid Probus duo a village near the sea, involving a 10-hour coach drive to the far north. Warm, too warm sometimes, wide, empty beaches, parties, laughter, crowds, dawn walks to escape the heat, San Mig beer on tap, balcony aperitifs to watch the sun going down, chickens running free, water from wells, and the odd power cut here and there. It’s a heady, exotic mix.



The nearby city, Laoag, has a huge market, a sinking bell tower, an imposing Spanish-built cathedral, an airport for those in a hurry, and thankfully a five-star beach hotel with a 50-metre outside pool to cool down in.

Time all too soon, however, to swop the sun-baked East Asian terrain for a Northern European winter and the onset of Covid-19.

*James Wheildon*

*A big thank you to all our contributors. The next edition will be in June, so please keep the items coming! Ed.*