



THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

President's Jottings



Welcome to the latest Newsletter. Well, here we are in December again, another year nearly over. I wonder why the years seem to speed by faster as we get older? Apparently, it's something to do with our later lives having fewer new experiences compared with

our younger days. So our ageing brains can just skip big chunks of uneventful time in our memory bank! Maybe one way of slowing down the clock is to slot in plenty of new experiences into our lives, i.e. 'Live life to the full'!

This year at Probus, I hope we have helped you make the most of life, with leisurely lunches together, stimulating talks and a varied programme of social events. Among many new memories for me has been the boat trip to Wareham in the summer, and the President's Weekend Away at Bembridge, where organiser Keith even managed to order in some amazing warm sunny weather! And who could forget hearing centenarian Des Curtis DFC share wartime memories of his RAF sorties in a Mosquito bomber, a fitting epilogue to Alan Pickford's talk. Flying years followed by years flying by? As the remaining months of my Presidential year fly by, I want to thank our committee team and other volunteers, working hard to make our experience of the Club friendly, enjoyable and memorable.

While we've bid farewell with sadness to several members and former members who have died this year, we've also been able to welcome a good many new members to the Club. Our numbers are healthy, but there's plenty of room for more!

Whatever your plans for Christmas and New Year, I wish you joy and peace, with good health in the year ahead.

James.

Social Secretary Report July 2023 to December 2023.

July 2023

This month we visited the Regent Centre in Christchurch, which was arranged by Keith Puttick, whose spell doing voluntary work meant we had the right introductions. The tour was fascinating, and our guide gave us the history of the theatre and an insight into the variety of programmes which had been going on over the years. It is currently used for cinema, live concerts and relay of live classical shows from London and elsewhere. We also had a view from behind the curtain and what is required to turn it from Cinema to live events. Finally, a trip to the projection area at the top of the building which had the current equipment (digital) and some of the older pieces used over the years to project lighting and cinema film.

August 2023

We gathered on a bring your own basis for a picnic at Wilverley Plain which was well attended. Thankfully we missed the company of Tonto's steed this year which was kept clear by some neighbouring children and a good time was had by all.

September 2023

A planned tour of Highcliffe Castle did not take place because costings did not make it viable.

October 2023

Early in the month we had the Presidents Weekend away at Warners in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight and we had 28 attendees. Food was good and table company lively not only between ourselves but with the neighbouring table who enjoyed listening to Robin Haggett and his comedy show. (we have all heard the

jokes!). The highlight was the Saturday main event which was a Genesis tribute act which also included Phil Collins songs Peter Gabriel songs and Mike and the Mechanics hits. There was a pitch and put course in the grounds of the hotel where the fairways were in better shape than the greens. There was also archery and indoor bowls facility.

Later in the month we had our traditional Probus Quiz held again at the Mundeford Masonic Hall. We had a change to make up of the teams chosen randomly by Quizmaster Robin Haggett and 8 teams each with four played players took part. The results were very close from top to bottom. The winners were Cliff and Helen Putterford and Peter and Coleen Warren. They are the trophy holders until next year. As before a raffle was held at the end and prizes were well received.

November 2023.

A coffee gathering between 10 and 11.30am on the 23rd at Stewarts Garden Centre was well attended.

December 2023

We are all looking forward to the Probus Christmas lunch at the Miramar Hotel in Bournemouth on the 13th. Arrangements are in hand, and we have sixty attendees sitting at tables of 10. A full three course meal awaits us, and we again have the company of the Diamond Divas who have a Christmas programme of seasonal songs and Carols to entertain us after the meal. They are ladies who attend functions through the year and collect on a charitable basis for Macmillan Locally.

And... Some dates for your diary,

January

2nd Club Meeting.
18th Coffee Morning at The Cliffhanger.

February.

6th Club Meeting
22nd Presidents Lunch at The Lord Bute.

March.

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

April.

2nd Club Meeting.
16th Guided tour of The Priory, with opportunity to climb the bell tower.

May

7th Club Meeting
16th Visit to Kingston Lacey.

June

4th Club Meeting
20th Visit to Bucklers Hard.

July

2nd Club Meeting with Wives and Partners joining us for lunch at The Bridge House Hotel, Longham.

Advance Notice. Presidents Weekend Away to be 4th to 7th October at the Double Tree Hilton Hotel, Wokingham.

SPEAKERS JANUARY - JUNE 2024

January 2024

Malcolm Wells MBE – ‘So Far So Good’

Another title for this talk could be ‘My Life’ – and what a life it’s been!

For a period of time Malcolm was the national speaker for Canine Partners, which included working with Sir Terry Wogan and how to teach a dog to use a washing machine!

He spent 24 years in the Army as a musician playing cello on state occasions and banquets at Kensington and Buckingham Palace and tells of the occasion when they played the wrong National Anthem! He was also a medical assistant in the first Gulf war, with a few light hearted stories of things ‘that could have gone better’.

Malcolm finishes his talk with the ‘behind the scenes’ experience of receiving the MBE at Buckingham Palace including when he was mistaken for a member of the Royal Household.....

February 2024

David Bickerton – ‘The Pursuit and Sinking of Bismarck’

This is one of the enduring stories of WW2 when more than one hundred British warships were involved in the five day 1,750 mile hunt. The British Battlecruiser HMS Hood was sunk within ten minutes of engaging the mighty Bismarck which disappeared for more than 24 hours and she was almost within reach of safety before the British won the day.

The saga is dear to David’s heart as his father was a crewman aboard HMS Dorsetshire which was involved in the final showdown.

March 2024 (AGM)

Keith Puttick – ‘Musicals of the 1950s and 1960s’

This is a much anticipated talk which we have been hoping to hear from Keith for several years – delayed firstly due to lockdown, then illness and then holiday!

We can expect to hear about Singing in the Rain, My Fair Lady, West Side Story, Oliver, The Sound of Music, and Hair – to name just a few.

Older members will be aware that Keith is an accomplished speaker who has a number of talks that he gives on musicals – indeed, he first came to the club as a speaker, found us to be very friendly, and decided to join!

April 2024

Kevin Patience – ‘The African Queen’

Kevin was our speaker back in February 2023 with ‘The Man Who Never Was’ which was extremely well received – so much so, that requests were received to book him again, as he gives a range of talks.

‘The African Queen’ would seem to be an appropriate follow-up, as it’s another story behind a film.

It is based on two naval stories from the First World War in East Africa. The first concerned the German cruiser Konigsberg blockaded and

sunk in an East African river, and the second about two Royal navy motorboats dragged through Central Africa to Lake Tanganyika in 1915. This is the background to the film starring Humphrey Bogart and Katherine Hepburn.

May 2024

Peter Ellis – ‘The National Coastwatch Institution Station at Hengistbury Head’

The Institution was formed following tragic events which occurred off the Cornish coast in 1994, when two fishermen lost their lives. The station at Hengistbury Head is one of sixty around the coast of England and Wales, manned by a team of some 2,600 volunteers. It was opened in August 2018 in the building previously used by HM Coastguard that had been unmanned for over 20 years.

We will hear about their work which complements that of the coastguard service in spotting those who may be in danger in or on the sea.

June 2024

Des Curtis – ‘The Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance’

Most members will know 100 year old Des from the two talks that he has given to the club, particularly his wonderfully emotive account (in September) of his experiences as a navigator in a de Havilland Mosquito in WW2, undertaking more than seventy sorties, and for which he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Well, in addition to his involvement with Bournemouth 1 Probus Club, and the building of a new Mosquito, he is a volunteer with the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance. I have been trying to get a speaker from the Air Ambulance for some time, but without success, and asked Des if he could help. ‘Yes’, he said, ‘I can get you a speaker -me!’

Robin Haggett Programme Secretary

2024 MENS LUNCHEON CLUB MENUS

Available Every month :-

Plain Chicken Breast or Bream White Fish Fillet, sides as main dish. bowls of vegetables.

Choice of extra vegetables per event subject to preorder :-

1. Peas, carrots, and courgettes.

1. Green beans and broccoli.

2. Cauliflower carrots and mangetout

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

Special meeting, Wives and Partners will be joining us at The Bridge House, Longham.

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 caremelised 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)

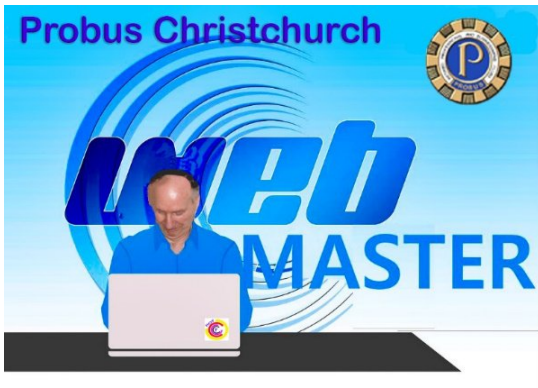
Treacle tart with marmalade ice.

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.



Effective **January 1st, 2024**, the new password for the Member and Photo Galleries.

From: Pr0bus32

To

Pr0bus

Eliminating the numbers after Pr0bus

Please advise if any personal information recorded on the Probus Web site is incorrect. This same information will be used for the Probus Address book published in April. When viewing the pictures in the Photo Gallery if you find them too large simply go to the tools menu in the PDF and zoom to a lower level of your choice. Quite amazing it has now been almost five years since we introduced the revised Christchurch Probus Web Site. We welcome any suggestions for change or additions.
Season's Greetings to all.
Roy T.

DANCING ON THE EDGE.....a.k.a. DOTTY

A Further Instalment.....

You may recall that in my last report on Dotty (the horse in which I own a share), I mentioned that she may need to have some treatment before racing again.

It seemed that something hadn't been right in her last run, and it was decided to x-ray her left and right front joints, which revealed two small bone fractures. She has since had surgery on these and is now back in the stables doing light exercising.

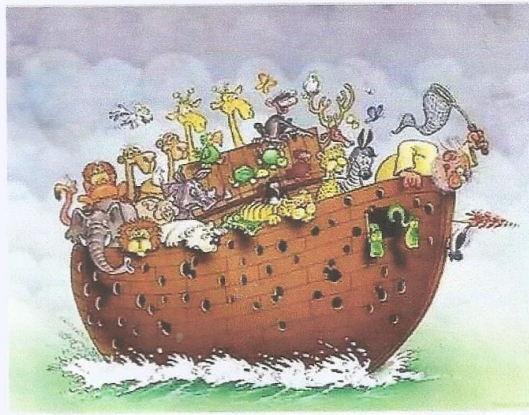
I receive a weekly progress report on Dotty, with normally a short video showing what she is doing, and she is recovering well.

The plan is to allow her to have an extended break, with a view to running again in the early spring. Paul Nicholls (the trainer) remains confident that she has a bright future, so it's a case of 'watch this space'!

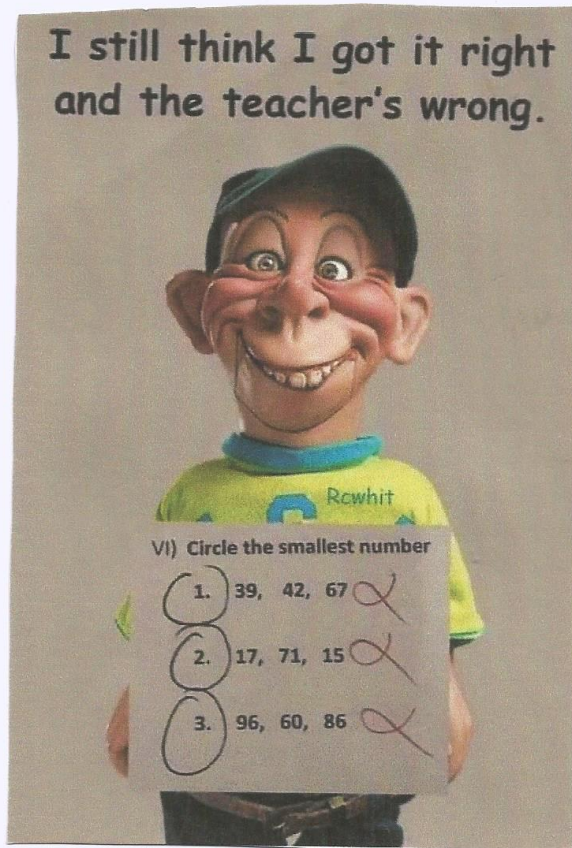
Robin

And for something a little less serious.....

I found an old lamp the other day, when I rubbed it a Genie appeared. "Master" he said, "I can grant you one wish – anything you want". "Well thanks Genie" I said "but I am pretty content, I just want to be happy..... I am now living in a cottage with six other dwarves and working in a mine.



Look Noah, I know you were ordered to bring two of every species –
but those woodpeckers will have to go.



Membership

As secretary I am responsible for Membership of Christchurch Probus Club along with general administration duties. In December 2023 we hope to reach the magic figure of 50 members.

Most members are recruited by personal recommendation, so if you know someone who would be interested in joining, I have a Probus news sheet written by James Wheildon which captures the essence of what this club is about. Please contact me if you would like a copy.

Now we have 46 members, 1 Life member and 10 Associate members.

Maurice

And on the next page some pictures from the President's weekend away to finish.....

With thanks to all our contributors and wishing everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Graeme.

