



THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)

NEWSLETTER December 2021

From the Vice President



Dear Members

Firstly, I wish to explain why it is me and not Keith writing these notes. Following a bowel test, it was found that Keith had a cancer, and immediate treatment would be required. He was advised that the recovery would be over a number of months and would be a slow process. In view of this, Keith has decided to stand down as president and concentrate on his recovery. At the time of writing, his surgery is planned for 2nd December. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Keith a full recovery, and look forward to welcoming him back once he has recovered.

For us all this has been a hard year full of setbacks and major health issues. Hopefully the worst is over and we can look forward to a full resumption of our Probud activities. Your committee has been busy in maintaining a full programme of events, and we hope you can all be a part of what looks to be a full and interesting year ahead.

We are still looking for new members and the best way of finding them is via you, the members. If you have a pal looking for friendship and good company then bring him along he will be guaranteed a warm welcome. New introductory leaflets are available from James Robertson.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you and your families a very happy Christmas, and a healthy new year.

Richard Porter Vice President

A note from your Web Master.



We try to be as accurate as possible for all information on the Christchurch Probud Website.

It would be very much appreciated if members could advise the Webmaster of any errors that may exist in regard to their personal information on the members' page, including phone numbers, email addresses, home address, bio info. etc.

Mobile/Cell phone numbers can now be added to the Website and address booklet in addition to landline #'s.

We are missing a few pictures of members on the Bio's pages so if you have a small "head shot" just send it along to be added.

Updates will be made on the Website when received, and will be included in the next address book printing.

Password access to the Members and Picture Gallery will change January 1st 2022. The first six letters remain the same. The two numbers following will be the year in reverse i.e. 22.

We have noticed very few hits for members going to the Computer Page, so consideration is being given to deleting this page entirely from the Website.

Wishing you all the best for 2022.

*Roy Townshend
Web Master*



Programme of speakers



January-June 2022

JANUARY: Christopher Legrand

‘AROUND THE WORLD IN MUSIC AND PICTURES’

In October a party of us attended a charity concert in which Christopher was singing, but he will not be singing on this occasion! Instead, this is one of a range of illustrated travel talks given by him, bringing together a wide variety of music from different countries around the world, illustrated with a mix of pictorial scenes and events.

FEBRUARY: John Smith

‘THE ROMAN INVASION A.D.43’

We welcome back an old friend who has spoken to us on a number of occasions – in fact just before lockdown in 2020, we heard from John about the ‘Battle of Britain over Christchurch’. This time however, something completely different – his talk examines the Roman decision to invade Britain, and how the various strategic and supply problems were overcome.

MARCH: ??

In accordance with our usual practice, following the AGM we ask a member from the Club to speak, as the amount of time remaining can be variable. Can you deliver a short talk on a subject of your choice? – if so, Robin will be delighted to hear from you!

APRIL: Ashley Jones

‘FRAUD PROTECTION’

Ash is the Regional Fraud Protection Advisor for the South West Regional Organised Crime Unit, and his presentation seeks to raise awareness of the dangers of economic crime, highlights typical case studies of previous offences, and offers advice and tips to help keep members safe.

MAY: Howard Nichols

‘THE MYSTERIOUS LIFE OF WALTER HENRY’

Just exactly who was this person who spent a childhood in a Victorian workhouse, and then a life at sea, being a surviving member of the Titanic? And who then had a secret involvement in getting members of the Tsar’s families out of Russia? If that was not enough, we understand from Howard that there is a ‘twist in the tail’ to this story!

JUNE: Roy Norton

‘50 YEARS IN TELEVISION PRODUCTION - TAKE 1’

Roy was a senior BBC TV programme director, working on prestige programmes such as the World Cup and the Olympics, and for three years edited ‘Match of the Day’ single-handed. His talk covers great milestones in TV history, going behind the scenes with ‘off camera’ anecdotes, scandal, and memorable ‘cock ups’.

Robin Haggett

Programme Secretary

President’s Weekend Away 2022

This may seem rather early, but this hotel is very popular. Even this early, we only had the offer of two dates next year, with the hotel fully booked for the rest of 2022.

So the dates for your diary are Friday 30th September for three nights.

The Moorland Hotel is 4 star, with an AA rosette for the restaurant, located on Dartmoor, and as you would expect the standard is very good. Every room has a small fridge with fresh milk, choice of teas and coffee. Bath robes are provided and of course every room is en-suite. The hotel is not big, but gives a feel of a country house, being set in 11 acres, and following a two million pound refurbishment. It is no wonder why this hotel is so popular.



Within the price we have half board, with a very good choice of food. We will have part of the restaurant, meaning that we will all be together for dinner. On the Friday we will have a President’s reception, with a complementary glass of Bucks Fizz. Entertainment is provided on two nights and is low key compared to some. Saturday we will be visiting prison, with a promise that everybody will be issued with a “get out of prison free card”. All this for only £230 per person. More details will follow in the new year.

Richard Porter, Vice President

Probus Annual Golf Competition



The latest edition of this competition, inaugurated in 1978 with a Cup donated by Frank Cooper, was held on Wed 6th October 2021 at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club, with a small but quality field of just 4 members. In a tightly-fought competition, Cliff Putterford came out as the winner, but only just. He ended up tied on score with Ken Heap, so the result was decided by the golf rule of counting back the scores on the last 9 holes to decide the winner, Cliff prevailing by 1 point. Brian Hollowell and Barry Johnson made up the rest of the elite entries, and ended up just fractions behind the other two. Previous winners who are still members include David Marshall, Alan Deakin, Harold Jones, Barry Johnson, Mike Penn and Ken Goodman. We hope that we can attract more entries next year. With Brian and Cliff sharing the trophy for the last 3 years, perhaps the challenge to wrestle the trophy from ‘the Montagu Park boys’, will provide an incentive.



4th Annual Probus Quiz 23 October 2021



It's Dobson's Choice!

The Christchurch Masonic Hall was buzzing with brain power, as teams pitted their wits for the coveted Quiz Team Trophy. Robin Haggett was our customary quizmaster, ably assisted by May. The grey cells were fortified at half time with a fine fish and chip supper from Brown's.

Dobson's Choice won through to lift the trophy, with 43 points out of a possible 50. Congratulations to team members Colin Dobson (Captain), Janet Dobson, Maurice and Sue Dowling, Brian Hollowell and Cliff Putterford.



Christmas Crackers



I had a terrible row with my wife on Christmas morning. She said, "You've done absolutely nothing to help with Christmas dinner!" I said, "What do you mean? Look at the turkey- I've plucked it and stuffed it. And all you've got to do now is kill it and put it in the oven!"

I asked the boss what he wanted for Christmas and he said, 'Just the usual – gold, frankincense and myrrh'.

*Tim Vine one-liners:
You invented Tappex, right? Correct me if I'm wrong.*

I had a Christmas haircut. All the trimmings.

*Dear Santa
For 2022 all I ask for is a Big Fat Bank Account and a Slim Body. Please don't mix up the two like you did last year.*



Sunken WWII ships rise from the Pacific

Seismic activity from an underwater volcano near Tokyo has raised two dozen ships, sunk after one of World War II's most famous battles, from the bottom of the Pacific Ocean.



Helicopter footage captured the ships washed ashore on the western side of the island of Iwo Jima, after they were pushed up, along with the seabed, by the underwater volcano Fukutoku-Okanoba .

U.S. forces sank the ships during the Battle of Iwo Jima in 1945. One of the bloodiest battles in World War II, almost 27,000 men lost their lives during the 36 day assault. The transport ships were then deliberately sunk by the US forces off the coast of the island.

Fukutoku-Okanoba has been erupting underwater since August. Iwo Jima is part of the Bonin Islands, that has been experiencing an increase in seismic events in recent weeks. Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi is the dormant vent to a still-active volcano, and is considered by some to be among the 10 most dangerous volcanoes in the world, There's every indication that the current spate of seismic activity could be building toward an eruption.

Scientists expect the once sunken monoliths will likely remain on the island for some time to come. Iwo Jima is uninhabited, and rarely visited by civilians (partly as a result of the unexploded bombs and grenades left behind on the island), meaning that it is unlikely that the ships will be cut up for scrap or removed by Japanese authorities.

Many thanks to our contributors. Wishing everyone a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas! ed.

