

# THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



## NEWSLETTER December 2014

### President's remarks

It is often said that as you grow older, the years pass at a faster rate – this is very true for my Presidential year, but what an enjoyable year it has been to date. The hotel has continued to cater for us extremely well, we have had some excellent speakers, and our social events have been varied and interesting.

I can honestly say that I have had some memorable moments this year, but these have been down to the hard work and support of my (the Club's) committee. I cannot thank them enough and also for the support of all the members and their wives.

During the year we were all saddened by the death of Des Long, one of our long standing and loyal members, but were delighted to enroll several new members whom we warmly welcome.

Rosemary joins me in wishing you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and all good wishes for a healthy New Year.

**Don Warren**

### Monthly Meetings – 2014

Yet again we have been fortunate to have had some extremely interesting speakers at our monthly meetings.

Since the April Newsletter we have been greatly entertained by Mike Webber with 'Norway's Fabulous Fjords', by Keith Puttick with 'Musicals of the 50's and 60's', by Derek Fones with 'What you don't know about Dorset', by Hugh Barnard CBE with 'Modern Smuggling and Counter Smuggling Techniques', by Ethel Dodswell with 'Camping Holidays which I hate', by Ron Taylor with 'Spice up your Life', by Nick Thomas with 'The Power of Humour in Everyday Life', and by Trevor Sapey with 'The Marie Rose'.

It would indeed be difficult to imagine a more varied programme than that.

Speakers often comment on what a very friendly Club they find us to be, and this cannot be better illustrated than by the fact that Keith Puttick is due to be joining us again in January – not as a Speaker this time, but as a new member of the Club!

### Future Speakers and Menus – Early 2015

**6<sup>th</sup> January** – John Wren – 'A Royal Warden at the Palace'.

Pork and Leek Sausages with Herb Mash, Braised Cabbage and Onion Jus  
Banoffee Pannacotta

**3rd February** – Ian Schulz – 'Where's my Camera? There's a Snake in my Soup'.

Lamb and Roasted Root Vegetable Pie with Crushed Potato  
Apple and Pear Frangipane, Clotted Cream

### March 3rd – Annual General Meeting

Ken Heap – 'A Life in Crime'.

Cajun Salmon with Saute Potato and Wilted Greens  
Warm Chocolate Brownie and Iced Caramel Parfait

**April 7th** – Paul Sturgess – 'A Ramble round the County'

Turkey and Chorizo Kiev with Thyme Potato and Red Pepper Salsa  
Vanilla Crème Brulee, Fruit Compote and Sable Biscuit

**May 5<sup>th</sup> (with our ladies)** – Alan White – 'My Life as a Poole Potter for the last 48 Years'

Breast of Chicken Forestiere with Dauphinoise Potato  
Strawberry Pavlova, Vanilla Ice Cream and Mint Syrup

NB Volunteers for Votes of Thanks are required for the above speakers – please let Graham Newton, the Programme Secretary, know if you can help with this by completing the form which is attached.

### Reminder of the Attendance Rules

Members unable to attend any of these meetings must inform the Dining Secretary (Mike Harrold – 01425-271860 or [mike\\_harrold@btinternet.com](mailto:mike_harrold@btinternet.com)) at the latest by the Friday preceding the meeting.

Additionally, if any member has dietary problems with the meal specified, please speak to Mike (again, by the preceding Friday), about a possible alternative being provided

### **Social Events**

We have continued to enjoy a busy social programme, with a number of events having been held. These included Sunday lunch at Brockenhurst College, a coffee morning at The Old Vicarage, a visit to Brooklands Museum at Weybridge, Surrey, a river trip and barbecue along the River Stour, afternoon tea at Bournemouth Flying Club, a tour (with lunch) of the Emerald Princess whilst docked at Southampton, and a coffee morning at the Old Station House at Holmsley.

### **President's Lunch – Friday 20th February**

This will take place this year at the Balmer Lawn Hotel, Brockenhurst. Full details and application forms will be distributed at our January meeting. The speaker will be Martin Stewart, the Managing Director of Stewarts Gardenlands, who was featured during the year in the TV programme 'The History of Stewarts'.

### **For Your Diary**

#### **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

Skittles Match at Shorefield Holiday Park, Milford-on-Sea. Application forms available from David Sutcliffe, which need to be returned to him no later than the 6<sup>th</sup> January.

#### **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March**

A performance of Swan Lake by the Royal Ballet Company is being beamed into the Regent Centre, Christchurch. Colin Dobson is organising a visit – please speak to him as soon as possible if you would like to attend.

#### **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

Sunday lunch at Brockenhurst College – details will be provided later in the New Year.

### **Ken Johnson**

As we go to press, we have learnt of the sad passing of Ken Johnson, a long standing member of the Club, and we send our sincere condolences to his family.

### **Web Site**

Just a reminder that our Web Site can be found at [www.probuschristchurch.com](http://www.probuschristchurch.com)

### **Ladies Group**

A group of our ladies have been meeting informally for coffee on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday monthly at the Lord Bute Hotel, Highcliffe. Next meeting - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, commencing 10.0am. Any ladies who have not so far attended will be made very welcome.

### **A Satnav for Probus Members**

I have a little Satnav – it sits there in my car,  
A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are.

I have a little Satnav, I've had it for much of my life  
It's better than the normal ones – my Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive,  
'It's 30 miles an hour' it says – 'You're doing 35'.  
It tells me when to stop and start and when to use the brake,  
And tells me that it's never, ever, safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red and when it goes to green,  
It seems to know instinctively just when to intervene  
It lists the vehicles in front and all those to the rear,  
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver has so helpful a device,  
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.

It never stops advising, each journey's pretty fraught  
So why don't I exchange it and get a quieter sort?

Ah well you see, it cleans the house, and makes sure  
I'm well fed,  
It washes all my shirts and things and keeps me warm in bed.  
So although it's true that I do not mean to scoff,  
I do wish that now and then, I could turn the darned thing off!

### **A Probus Member in Court**

The judge told me that it was bigamy to marry three women without divorcing the first two. I told him that it was big of me to marry three women.

### **And finally - from a Probus Member in New Zealand :**

I will NEVER be over the hill.  
I'm too darned tired to climb it!

**We wish you all a very happy Christmas, and the best of health for the New Year**