

THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



NEWSLETTER April 2018

Presidents Ramblings!!

As my first contribution to our newsletter, I must start by thanking Keith for putting it all together. It is also appropriate to thank Robin for his year at the helm. He, together with his wife May, have been staunch supporters of our social events and led our 40th Anniversary celebrations with great gusto. Robin also acted as quiz-master at our quiz in September, and believe me, it is no easy task compiling the questions. This was such a successful event last year, that it is likely to be repeated later on this year. Part of the reason that we made it to 40 years, is the friendship which exists between the members, their willingness to support the social events and to participate in the running of the club. This coupled with their wives' and families' enthusiastic help has resulted in the great club we have today. Long may this continue.

The plans for the next 12 months are forging ahead and our social team is putting together a full programme for you, but if you have any ideas, or come across a speaker who you think will be ideal for us, then don't keep it to yourself, tell one of the committee, so we can add to our sphere of enjoyment.

With a certain amount of trepidation, I mention our goal of achieving 50 members (currently 48). Judging by our current membership, we have gone for quality not quantity, but a little extra quality would do us no harm. So look to your friends and acquaintances and see what you can do.

I commented at the AGM that all the Ex-Presidents who spoke to me wished me luck. Perhaps they know something I don't know. There is an old saying which says "If it is not broken, don't fix it".

That is how I feel about the Club. We do what we enjoy, with people we like, so let us carry on in that vein and have another great year together and create fond memories for us all.

Mike Harrold
President

Annual General Meeting

The 41st AGM, held on the 6th March 2018 at the East Close Hotel, was attended by 34 members, with 10 apologies for absence.

The new committee for 2018 is as follows:-

Vice President	Ken Heap
Hon. Secretary	Maurice Dowling
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Fay
Programme Secretary	Richard Porter
Dining Secretary	Colin Dobson
Social Secretaries	David Dunsmore Brian Hollowell
Webmaster	Maurice Dowling
Webmaster Assistant	Roy Townshend
Welfare Officer	Robin Haggett
Press/Media Secretary	Keith Puttick
Committee Member	Don Warren
Assistant Treasurer*	Graham Newton
Steward*	Les Denmead

**The titles of Assistant Treasurer and Steward are not committee positions.*

Subscriptions and Fees

It was agreed that the joining fee of £15 and the current monthly meeting charge of £24 should remain unchanged together with the annual subscription fee of £25. The "attendance at meeting only" fee will increase from £4 to £5.

Please note that your annual subscriptions are now due. The Treasurer will be pleased to receive your cheque for £25, made payable to Christchurch Probus Club.

Meeting Procedures

Committee meetings will continue to be held at 9.30am, with the general meetings starting at 10.45am, and coffee being served from 10.15am.

Club Rules

Rule 7A: An additional sentence will be inserted at the end of this Rule to read: *“The committee will have the power to appoint other members for specific roles as and when the needs of the Club dictate.”*

Rule 7H: The wording of Rule 7H to be amended as follows: *“Nominations for Committee must be handed to the Hon. Secretary by the end of the February Meeting of each year.”*

Reminder of the Attendance Rules

Members unable to attend any of the following meetings must inform the Dining Secretary (Colin Dobson – Telephone 01425-271953 or e-mail colin@goblins.plus.com) **at the latest by the Friday preceding the meeting.** Additionally, if any member has dietary problems with the meal specified, please speak to Colin (again, by the preceding Friday) about a possible alternative being provided. All main courses are served with Fresh Seasonal Vegetables.

Future Speakers and Menus

In order to make the most of the new menus received from the East Close Hotel, the Dining Secretary will, from July onwards, give members a choice of three mains (meat, fish or vegetarian) and three desserts. Members will make their selections from a list provided the month before.

3rd April – John Symonds – The Golden Age of Radio
Poached Smoked Haddock, Crushed Potato, Chive Veloute (Mushroom Stroganoff, Braised Rice)
Apple Crumble, Crème Anglaise

1st May (with Ladies) – Sandra Simmonds – Life Behind the Veil
Choice from 3 mains and 3 desserts

5th June – Mike Sparkes – Memories of a Secondary Head Teacher
Fish Pie, Parsley Crust (Winter Vegetable Hotpot)
Vanilla Crème Brule, Shortbread

3rd July – Dr Henry Goodall – New Forest Airfields during WWII
Choice from 3 mains and three desserts

7th August – Gwen Appleton – I Don’t Wish to Complain ... but
Choice from 3 mains and three desserts

4th September – John Wren – A Warden at Buckingham Palace
Choice from 3 mains and three desserts

2nd October – Christopher Legrand – The Treasures of Dorset
Choice from 3 mains and three desserts

6th November – Valerie Young – The Social History of Bletchley Park
Choice from 3 mains and three desserts

For Your Diary:

Friday, 13th April

President’s Lunch @ Bentley’s Restaurant, Dudsbury Golf Club & Spa.
3-course lunch, coffee & glass of wine, or soft drink. £24.00 per person.

Thursday, 24th May

Cream Tea @ The Bell Inn, Brook, New Forest.
Two homemade scones. Clotted cream, strawberry jam and a pot of tea or cafetiere of coffee. £6.95 per person.
Flyer distributed.

Friday, 12th October

Weekend Away @ Cricket St. Thomas, Chard, Somerset, a Warner’s hotel.
3 nights, bed, breakfast & evening meal.
£225 per person per standard room.
Flyer distributed.

Tuesday, 18th December

Christmas Lunch @ South Lawn Hotel, Milford-on-Sea.
Prices & details to be released later.

Recent Speakers

As always, we have been greatly entertained at the monthly meetings by some very interesting talks.

In November we had **Simon Hayes** who was the first elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, serving in that post from 2012-16. The role encompassed the overview of bringing about social change in the running of the police force. Another of his responsibilities was in the appointment of the Chief Constable.

Simon told us the fastest increasing crime is cyber-crime, not surprising when 90% of the UK has internet access.

Our December speaker was **Clifton Beard**, whose talk was entitled "Forensic Collision Investigation". Clifton had been in the police force for 30 years before he retired in 2014 and a large part of his service was spent as a member of the Forensic Collision Investigation Unit of Dorset Police.

The FCI exists to inform courts as expert and impartial witnesses whose work is solely science led. The unit seeks to impartially retrieve as much evidence as possible from a crash site.

He talked about skid marks, about reading the evidence from the damage of the vehicles and about the importance of where even the smallest pieces of wreckage evidence ended up. Despite the shocking pictures of vehicles after collisions, and the realisation that many of the people in the vehicles we saw did not survive, this was a fascinating glimpse into the work of these dedicated searchers of the truth.

We started the New Year with a very interesting subject for our talk. Cyber-Crime Prevention. Our speaker was **Jake Moore**, who is head of the Dorset Police Cyber Crime Unit. He explained to us the need for all PC/internet users to be aware of the various ways by which the criminal will try to get into your PC or similar device, in order to obtain your personal and financial details.

An aspect which can be overlooked is the regular updates provided by the system operator. It is useful to check for any on a weekly basis as these updates often include security fixes for the latest scams. He also advised that our passwords should be at least eight characters long and include numbers.

In February our speaker was **Mark Paisley**. His subject was the recovery of the Highball – no, not a cocktail, but the sister bomb to the bouncing bomb of "Dambusters" fame in WWII. This was another of Barnes Wallis's inventions with the initial design work carried out at Vickers in Weybridge.



Cooperisms: A man fell out of a ten-storey window. He's lying on the ground with a big crowd around him. A Policeman walks over and says, "what happened?". The man says, "I don't know. I just got here!"

Christmas Lunch

Our Christmas lunch at the South Lawns Country Hotel was an excellent event enjoyed by both members and their wives and our speaker for the occasion was no less inspiring. **Pauline Rowson**, a successful local crime writer -18 books in the Andy Horton series plus other crime novels - gave us a most entertaining talk on crime writing.

She certainly got our attention with her opening statement, "I'm always looking for a place to put a dead body"! Having been born in Portsmouth and still living in Hampshire, her Andy Horton character is a police DI and the stories all have a marine connection.

Pauline's writing routine usually comprises of an initial two weeks of research followed by up to three months of writing, during which additional research is undertaken to produce a first draft. As part of the process she creates a story board to keep track of the plots, sub-plots, red herrings and a list of questions, which will need to be answered somewhere within the storyline.

An excellent talk which prompted many of our members to purchase a book, personally signed by the author!

Website

Our Clubs website address is:

www.probuschristchurch.org.uk

Please do take the opportunity to visit the site and give us your views.

Presidents Lunch

Despite the early March snow and ice, President Robin made every effort to ensure our President's Lunch went ahead as planned.



Sadly, his efforts failed and the President's Lunch will now take place at Dudsbury Golf Club on Friday 13th April.

Cooperisms: I was walking to the theatre this evening when a stranger approached me. He said, "Hey Tommy, have you got any nude pictures of your wife?". I was disgusted. I said, "No, I haven't". He said, "Oh, do you want some?"



Membership

We are very pleased to welcome a new member since our last Newsletter was issued:

Andrew Mecklenburgh

Wife: Carol

Joined April 2018

Building Surveyor

Hobbies: DIY, Gardening, Reading, National Trust Member, Walking

A warm welcome to Andrew and Carol.

While we promote our Club through Posters, local Newspapers and Magazines, the most successful method in recruiting new members comes from existing members introducing friends, neighbours and other acquaintances. If anybody you know shows an interest please bring them along to check us out – and enjoy their free lunch!

Ladies Lunch Club

We welcome any lady, especially those whose husbands have recently joined Probus, who may not know of our lunch club.

We meet every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Our venues vary, usually a pub, but if I have an e-mail address I contact everyone the week before with all the information they need. There never seems to be a problem with finding something to talk about - what a surprise!!!

For any possible new members my phone number is 01202 420501 and my e-mail address is..... nannyrosemary9@gmail.com

Two Old Probus Guys at Dinner

An elderly couple has dinner at another couple's house and, after eating, the wives leave the table and go into the kitchen. The two gentlemen were talking, and one says, "last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great. I would recommend it very highly."

The other man asks, "what is the name of the restaurant?"

The first man thinks and thinks and finally asks, "What is the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know . . . the one that's red and has thorns."

"Do you mean a rose?"

"Yes, that's the one," replied the man. He then turns towards the kitchen and yells, "Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?"

Cooperisms: Two cannibals were eating a clown – one said to the other, "Does he taste funny to you?"



I went to buy some pork chops and told the butcher to make them lean. He said, "which way?"