



THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)

NEWSLETTER June 2020

President's Jottings



I would normally be reporting on all our social events but the lockdown has put paid to that.

The AGM 3rd March 2020 in which I took over the reins from Ken Heap and became President. There was a lot of business to attend to, so much so that Richard Porter was unable to give his talk "Confessions of a misspent youth". We look forward to it at another meeting.

After the AGM we were all looking forward to a Coffee morning at Otters Nursery on 19th March 2020. However Coronavirus overtook us. So this was cancelled.

With a huge amount of work, Brian and Jan Hollowell, together with Richard Smith and Annie had a full calendar booked for this year which unfortunately had to be cancelled - very disappointing. However, the "Weekend Away" at Warner's Studley Castle on the 16th/17th/18th October 2020 is still on, as we hope all restrictions will have been lifted by then. It is an Abba Tribute weekend, and at the moment we have 45 attendees. Please bring your name badges as we will all have forgotten who is who by then. Hopefully we will meet up before then.

The Coronavirus lockdown came on 23rd March 2020. It seems like a lifetime ago.

Mike Fay sadly passed away on 4th April 2020. RIP Mike. He will be greatly missed. Mike was recently appointed as a Life Member in recognition of his many years of valued service. Mike became a member of The Probus Club of Christchurch in 2004, joining the Committee in 2007. He has served on the Committee ever since, being the Treasurer for many years and the President twice. Mike

became Treasurer when the Club was very close to being in debt, and through his careful stewardship, effectively saved the Club from closure.

24th April 2020: Trump – Coronavirus could be treated with disinfectant.

On the 29th April 2020 Keith Puttick and I were appointed signatories for Christchurch Probus Club Bank account, our thanks to Graham Newton for setting it up. The same day, Boris Johnson and Carrie had a baby boy.

Jim Cloggie sadly passed away 30th April 2020. RIP Jim. Jim was a mechanical engineer by profession and was a keen photographer.

Jim became a member of The Probus Club of Christchurch in 2005. During his membership years, Jim was the steward for a period of time and a regular at our meetings and social events. In fact he beat me into second place at the Skittles held at Hoburne 2016. His strong sense of humour was always to the fore. After the passing of his wife Moira, Jim became ill and was unable to continue as a member of the club in 2018.

30th April 2020: Captain Tom Moore's 100th Birthday, now an Honorary Colonel and member of the English cricket team. An example to young and old alike.

4th May 2020 Mike Fay's funeral. Sadly only 10 people, all family, were allowed to attend Mike's funeral. A Memorial Service will be held later in the year. Details to follow.

14th May 2020: Jim Cloggie's funeral. Family flowers only. Memorial donations to Deric-Scott.

Ken Heap has been doing a sterling job as our Welfare Officer. Roy Townsend has transformed our website into something other clubs copy. Robin Haggatt has expanded our Entertainment page with lots of jokes and things to do. We have also had quizzes from Cliff Putterford in April and Richard Smith in May. I also need to thank James Robertson for compiling this newsletter. Of course David Dunsmore our secretary is keeping an accurate record of all events within the club.

10th May 2020: Boris tells us to Stay Alert? Wake up you lot at the back.

13th May 2020: Garden Centres and fish & chip shops open. You are able to play golf, tennis and fishing. Highcliffe Golf Club car park is full. You can now buy a house but no foreign holidays.

A small blessing.

My father in law died 10 years ago from numerous health issues. He had a prosthetic leg which we have kept for all these years. I have tried on numerous occasions to give it back to the NHS but to no avail. During this Lockdown I luckily came across this website Legs4Africa. I uploaded my details and a photo of the leg. They then contacted me and I posted it to Leicester where their UK base is located. I am so pleased that it will help make a difference to someone's life in Africa.

17th May 2020 Susan and I went on our first date 17 years ago, we actually met in our early twenties, unfortunately no celebration dinner. Can't wait to go out again to a nice restaurant.

I did joke before I became President that I would prorogue the committee, I have not only done that but I have furloughed all the members of the club as well. From here the only way is up.

Please stay healthy and safe for tomorrow will be a better day.

See you all soon.

Best Wishes,

Maurice Dowling – President

PS: I finally told my suitcases there will be no holiday this year.

Now I am dealing with the emotional baggage....

A note from our Speaker Secretary

Despite the fact that we cannot get together at the moment, I thought it would be good to look forward and share some of the topics to be covered in the future by our speakers.

You may remember that we had a very interesting talk about the submarine museum in Gosport. One future speaker actually commanded a submarine and will talk about what life was like in a WW1 submarine.

Many of you will know Ian Schulz, who used to work for Happy Lappy. Now retired, he is still doing the speaker circuit and his subject will be the sophistication of computer scams. A growing menace and one that we can all be wary of.

A speaker who had to cancel last year is back on the circuit. This talk is about Lawrence of Arabia and his life after the desert campaign of WW1. A fascinating insight into the life of an extraordinary man, and a local in Dorset during his life.

Just a short synopsis of what is to come and hopefully something for your all to look forward to. I am sure you will agree with me we all miss the

good company we enjoy every month and hopefully it will not be too long before we can reconvene.

Richard Porter

Speaker Secretary

A tongue-in cheek teaser from David Marshall

MORALITY TEST: How moral are you?

This takes less than a minute and is incredibly accurate...well worth the little bit of effort.

This test has only one question, but it's an important one. By giving an honest answer you will discover where you stand morally.

The test features an unlikely and completely fictional situation in which you will have to make a decision. Only you will know the results, so remember that your answer needs to be honest.

THE SITUATION:

You are in Miami, with chaos all around you caused by a hurricane. There is a flood of biblical proportions. You are a photojournalist working for a major newspaper and you're caught in the middle of this epic disaster. The situation is nearly hopeless. You're trying to shoot career-making photos. There are houses and people swirling around you, some disappearing under the water. Nature is unleashing all of its destructive fury.

THE TEST:

Suddenly you see a man in the water. He is fighting for his life trying not to be taken down with the debris. You move closer. Somehow the man looks like...Good Heavens! It's Donald Trump. At the same time you notice that the raging waters are about to take him under forever.

YOU HAVE TWO OPTIONS:

You can save the life of Donald Trump OR you can shoot a dramatic Pulitzer Prize-winning photo, documenting the last minutes of one of the world's most powerful men hell-bent on the destruction of the USA.

THE QUESTION:

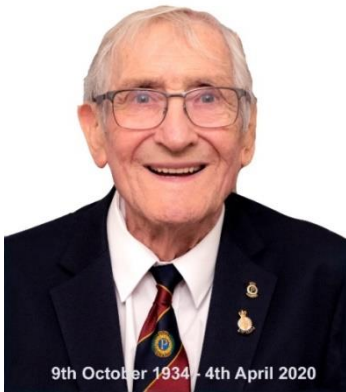
Here's the question and please give an honest answer:

Would you:

A) Select high contrast color film, or...

B) Go with the classic simplicity of black and white?

Members pay fond tributes to Mike Fay



Farewell to a friend, colleague, and a true gentleman. Your knowledgeable presence will be sadly missed. Rest in peace Mike.

With all our Love and fond memories
Brian and Jan Hollowell xx

Your dedication to Christchurch Probus will be remembered with gratitude.

Best Wishes
Cliff Putterford

Mike was always a wise sage who once committed gave his all. Though our words can do little, we hope our thoughts and prayers will support you at this time'.

Love
Ken & Sally Heap x

Treasured memories of the friendship that I shared with Mike, particularly whilst serving as Secretary during his two years as President of our Probus Club, will always be with me. He will be very much missed by both May and myself, as well as all members of the Club.

With thanks,
Robin Haggett

I have known Mike for many years but especially from 2007 when I became President and he took over the onerous task of Treasurer. Since then, I believe he has served continuously on Committee, mainly as Treasurer but including 2 years (2010 and 2011) as President, becoming Assistant Treasurer last year and deservedly elected Life Member earlier this year. A very remarkable record. Mike also worked tirelessly for the Highcliffe Branch of RNLI for many years. He was a great and valued friend to Sandra and myself, who will be greatly missed not only by us but, I am sure, also by very many other members of Christchurch Probus Club.

Geoff Wilson

Mike you were a good, kind and committed man who will be sadly missed. The support you gave to your family, Highcliffe Lifeboats, and the Probus Club and to me on the death of my husband will always be remembered.

Thank you
Pat Long

Jacs and I are very grateful for the friendship and support Mike has shown us and we are very sad at his passing.

Best Regards
Mike Harrold

Fond memories of Mike; a great guy, good friend, and dedicated member of Probus.

Les Denmead and Diane Helmsley

I got to know Mike shortly after joining Probus in 2011, when he was privileged to be President for the second time. After I was invited to serve on the committee in 2012 and be one of the joint Social Secretaries, Mike joined me in that role in 2013 where we enjoyed working closely together.

In Mike becoming Treasurer - for a second term - in 2014 the finances of the club were kept fully under control and maintained as if the funds were his own. He valued being an influential member of the Club over many years, carrying out the various positions in a conscientious and thoughtful way. Being made a Life Member in 2020 for the years' service he gave reflects the man he was.

He will be greatly missed.

David Sutcliffe

Mike Fay was the sort of person everyone liked. He was a quiet, kind, reliable and interesting man. He loved our Probus Club and was a great servant to it over many years.

He will be greatly missed.

Ken Goodman

Although I have been a member of Probus for a short time Mike will always be remembered to me as a person that always was positive in his thinking, extremely determined and strong in every action he accepted. He was a true friend and will be missed for sure at our meetings.

Best Regards
Roy Townshend

Mike will be remembered as a close friend.

Through RNLI and Probus we all had a happy time together. Mike was great company and was always happy to help.

We will all miss him

Sheila Jacobs

We have good memories of a friend and fellow Probus Member. Always happy to offer advice and help if needed and supportive at all times. So pleased we were able to get round for what was to become our last visit just recently.

We will miss you as will all your friends at Christchurch Probus Club.

Rest in peace Mike.

Maurice and Susan Dowling

Thank you, Mike, for your commitment to Probus over so many years – a loyal member and servant of the club on the Committee, as President for 2 terms and many years as treasurer. You were so supportive and helpful in the handover of the treasurership. You will be much missed. Rest in Peace

Graham & Angela Newton

James and Mila Wheildon enjoy Stanpit Marsh during lockdown...

I have got to know our local outdoors amenity Stanpit Marsh very well indeed once the lockdown was imposed, with daily exercise visits apart from Sundays (day off!).

The marsh is big enough to traverse and keep to the two-metre rule, with most people willing to do that weird give-way Covid dance when the footpaths narrow.

And as always there is plenty to see, the views down the estuary to Mudeford, across to Hengistbury Head, and up to Christchurch Priory, as well as observing the ponies and their foals, swans, rabbits, ducks and assorted birds.

The car park was sort of sealed off ("sort of" because the car park barriers were easily moved, and they obviously were, as different cars were seen parked up every visit). On May 13 the barriers were formally removed.

The lockdown itself is proving a sort of exercise too, with some flouting the "guidance" but most people were observing it, on the marsh anyway.



Poet's Corner

Stanpit marsh is not to miss
And during lockdown it's bliss
To escape being confined to quarters
Sensational views across the waters

Big enough to avoid a crowd
Where people do quiet, not loud
Perfect to walk off a Probus lunch
And after lockdown in a bunch
James Wheildon

I wandered lonely as a cloud
Two metres from the madding crowd
When all at once my name was called
To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.

This was the pensioners' special hour.
I'd gone to get a bag of flour.
But I forgot, when through the door,
What I had gone to Waitrose for.

The Waitrose staff are extra kind.
I told them it had slipped my mind.
They asked what else I had forgot
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.

I phoned my wife again to ask.
She reminded me of this special task:
"I need some flour to bake a cake
with all that cream you made me take."

"Ah yes I recall" I had to lie.
I dared not ask what flower to buy
But then I saw them next the tills
A bunch of golden daffodils!
Anon, submitted by Colin Dobson



Thanks to all our contributors to this edition. There'll be more in the next one. Meanwhile, check out the website and Entertainment section there for more amusement – ed.