



THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2022

President's Jottings



It seems this year has raced by and suddenly we are planning for Christmas. During the year we have at last returned to some normality following Covid and the restrictions it imposed. Our numbers at

our monthly lunches have improved and we are close to reaching 40 attendees. With increasing costs it is important that we maintain high numbers at our lunches since this helps keeping costs down for you the Members.

As usual your committee has worked hard over the year to bring you a varied programme of events, speakers, and good food. It is unfair to mention individuals, but all the committee has given exceptional service and I am grateful for all the efforts they have made in making Christchurch Probus a success.

We finish the year with a membership just under the magical 50. We still have room for more members so please play your part and introduce potential recruits. We have a number of "Sales Aids" and if you are a little shy ask Maurice for some helpful literature aimed at encouraging membership.

So with Christmas fast approaching may I wish you and yours every happiness and health over the holiday period and look forward to a successful new Probus year. Richard.

Social Secretary Report July to December 2022

In July we had a new venture for the Club with a visit to the Petanque court at The Three Tuns at Bransgore. A chance to play a proper game of Boule and demonstrate our expertise (gained in playing against the children and grandchildren on the sands on holidays over the years). Split into three groups we had round robin games and a great deal of fun whilst getting roasted in the sunny weather that appeared that day. The result was three winning teams, one in each group, and a bottle of Cava was the reward for The Hollowell's, The Porter's and The Marshall/Wilson combo. We enjoyed a buffet lunch and drinks at the bar. If we do it again then our first attempt should have given us a better idea of how it works and we might end up with an overall winner and maybe a Cup to be presented.

August saw us gathering for a BYO Picnic in The Forest at Wilverley Plain and in true Cowboy and Indian style we set ourselves up in a circle and set out our food and the chat and eating started. At this point our uninvited guest arrived to join the pow wow!! The horse started looking for a free meal!! It was clearly not The Lone Rangers ride because it was not Silver: perhaps it was Tonto's steed (whose name was apparently Scout – (don't you love Wikipedia!))

Great fun was had as the bronco bucked and barged his way around, helping himself to our food. Finally, Scout departed, and normality resumed amongst us, and we enjoyed our gathering in relative peace.

Between the 30th September and the 3rd October we spent The Presidents weekend away on Dartmoor at the Moorland Hotel which was an enjoyable trip, where we were truly blessed with the weather and a prime view of the Hay Tor across the road. (The only rain during the days coincided with our arranged trip to Dartmoor Prison). We looked round the prison museum and familiarised with the history and activities of many former villain inmates who had been locked up there over the years. Many of us made the climb up Hay Tor which gave us spectacular views in all directions.

Forget the ponies with which we are familiar in the New Forest, this was sheep country. Thankfully they didn't spend much time meandering along the roads, but they spent a great deal of time eating grass on the edges of the moor with their rear ends overhanging the roads! There was entertainment following our evening meals for us to sing along and dance to.

October saw the regular quiz night hosted at the Masonic Hall in Mudeford (thanks to Mike Harrold) and as always it was competitive. Robin Haggett and Keith Puttick produced the devilish questions, and we started by struggling to name pictures of the royal children and some other older generation royals. The eventual winners were the Commitments team comprising the Sutcliffes, Robertsons and Goodmans. The Quiz Cup was awarded together with some bottles of liquid refreshment and a raffle was held and prizes won. Get ready for next year!!

In November we gathered at Stewarts Garden Centre for coffee and cake and a

good chin wag, and a chance to pick up your first Poinsettias of the season, just in.

Into December we are now looking forward to the Probus Christmas Lunch at The Miramar on the 15th of the month, to be followed with a seasonal programme of songs, poems and stories by The Diamond Divas who are a group of ladies, all in retirement, who voluntarily collect for MacMillan Caring Locally.

Merry Christmas to all members of Probus Christchurch and we hope that you have enjoyed the activities we have arranged for you.

Keith Rutherford and Chris Mosley

PS..... Some dates for your diary.....

Skittles at the Conservative Club, New Milton on 26th January.

Presidents Lunch at The Lord Bute Highcliffe on 23rd February.

And some Christmas crackers....

How does good King Wenceslas like his pizzas ?

Deep pan crisp and even.



2023 MENS LUNCHEON CLUB MENUS

Available Every month :-

Plain Chicken Breast or White Fish Fillet,
sides as main dish. Bowls of Vegetables.
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

Confit duck leg with “froggy” peas. Slow cooked duck leg
with peas, pearl onions, braised lettuce and bacon.

Summer vegetable risotto with rocket and parmesan (V)

Strawberries and cream.

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
caramelised 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, 2023, the new password for the Member and Photo Galleries

From: Pr0bus22 To **Pr0bus32**

Please advise if any personal information recorded on the Probus Web site for your Phone or Bio is incorrect since it is known that the web master makes mistakes on occasions.

The Hidden Gems published on the members page, introduced by Ken H, have been extremely popular and interesting. Hard copies remain available. Should you have a story to tell Graeme G will be pleased to hear from you.

Bios of all new members are now available to view on the Web Site.

I have reviewed all the geographical locations that have viewed our Web Site in the past year. Some locations quite surprising.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to eliminate the old Web address (.UK) showing up when searching on the Web, this is due to having been unsuccessful in accessing the passwords from the old Probus web sites servers. These are required to close it down permanently.

If there is something you would like to add to the Web Site do not hesitate to contact the Web Master or any committee member. Conversely if you see anything that seems out of bounds or misleading then we would also like to know.

Would like to thank Robin and Maurice who are the main contributors to the Entertainment Page. Roy T.



DANCING ON THE EDGE The adventure continues.....

In the June Newsletter I referred to the winning debut of Dotty – the horse in which I own a share. It will be recalled that this was a flat race in April, which Dotty won easily by eight lengths.

Since that time she has run twice over hurdles, albeit finishing somewhat disappointingly in 5th and then in 7th position. Nevertheless, the report below received from the stables of trainer Paul Nicholls remains fairly optimistic:

‘Dotty is a young mare by Kapgarde, progeny of this sire tend to be slower to develop both mentally and physically. She had a great start to her career which set the bar high but we must remember that she is still learning her trade.

In both races she was well looked after (by the jockey) when she dropped back to ensure that she didn’t have a hard time. It’s essential not to be too tough on young horses in the early stages of their career, particularly mares and fillies.

Dotty settled much better (in her last race) and this really reflected in her jumping. The field went a good few strides quicker from the off, which probably helped her relax, but also meant she struggled to maintain the pace towards the end of the race. The ground was probably on the quick side for Dotty, which will also have contributed to her being outpaced.

The plan now is to have one more race before Christmas and then to start a spring campaign for her, when she will qualify for a decent handicap mark.

So watch her progress with time – there is a bright future for Dotty – keep the faith!’

Robin. To be Continued.....

SPEAKERS JANUARY – JUNE 2023

January 2023

Christopher Legrand – Around the World in Music and Pictures

Members may recall that Christopher was due to give this talk in January 2022 but cancelled due to Covid restrictions in place at the time.

He has spoken at our club in the distant past (October 2018 – The Treasures of Dorset). Since then his links with the club have been strengthened by a group of us supporting some charity concerts that Christopher has organised at his church in West Moors.

‘Around the World in Music and Pictures’ brings together a wide variety of well and lesser known music from different countries around the world and is illustrated with a mix of pictorial scenes and events.

February 2023

Kevin Patience – The Man Who Never Was

Kevin’s life story could be a talk in itself – grew up in Kenya, served in the RAF, became a commercial diver, and latterly has published several books on military history.

Members may be partly familiar with the subject of his talk, as it has been made into a film. Code named Operation Mincemeat, in April 1943 a body dressed as a Royal Marine officer with briefcase was deliberately washed ashore in Spain, designed to fool the Germans that the allies planned to invade Greece and not Sicily. Kevin tells us that he will give ‘the true story of this deception’!

March 2023

Simon Weinberg – My Life

As usual at our AGMs, we ask a member to speak, and who better than Simon?

Our membership list describes Simon as a custom jeweller manufacturer, but with much of his life spent in Hatton Gardens dealing in diamonds to the rich and famous – this promises to be of no little interest!

April 2023

Keith Mitchell – Development of University Hospitals Dorset

Keith is a Governor of the University Hospitals Dorset (UHD) NHS Foundation Trust, which mainly comprises the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Poole Hospital and Christchurch Hospital.

The programme of work that is ongoing to

transform these hospitals runs up to 2025 and forms part of an overall £259M budget, and Keith is keen to share news of the developments that are taking place.

May 2023

Gerard O’Boyle – Quotes, Jokes and Anecdotes

Members may recall that Gerard was due to speak at our November meeting, but had to cancel due to illness, so we swiftly re-booked him!

He has written a book with the title of his talk, subtitled ‘How to spend a few hours chuckling’, but it’s far from being a quick read, with 1,443 entries from 561 sources on 190 subjects!

Apart from original entries, there are contributions from famous names in all walks of life – Woody Allen, George Burns, Zsa Zsa Gabor, George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, W.C.Fields, and Mae West to list just a few.

June 2023

David Richmond-Coggan – The RNLI and its Women

David is Chairman of the RNLI Christchurch and Bournemouth Fundraising Branch and has been a presenter for the RNLI for some 13 years.

He does many different talks but this one seems particularly appropriate for June, when we will have our wives and partners with us. David takes a look at the historical involvement of women with lifeboats and the part that they play in the present day RNLI.

Robin Haggett

Programme Secretary

And some more stocking fillers.....

What is the most popular Christmas wine...

I don’t like Brussel Sprouts.

Why did nobody bid on E Bay for Rudolf and Blitzen..

They were too dear.

Who says Oh, Oh, Oh.....

Santa walking backwards.

Teacher, Johnny define Ignorance and apathy.

Johnny..... Don’t know and Don’t care !



Event arranged by Keith Puttick.
 Thursday, 13th October 2022
 The Cliffhanger, Highcliffe.

- Attendees:
 2002 Mike Penn (L)
 2004 David Marshall
 2007 Geoff Wilson
 2009 David Marshall
 2013 Chris Taylor
 2014 Don Warren
 2015 David Sutcliffe
 2017 Robin Haggett
 2018 Mike Harrold
 2020 Maurice Dowling



Last word.....!!!!

Thanks to all contributors, and a very Happy,
 Healthy and Peaceful Christmas and
 New Year to all.

Graeme

