

Maurice Dowling

Presidents Report 2020/21

My year in office began at the March 2020 AGM which is the only meeting I presided over. I now hope most of you have had your Covid vaccination and are feeling a lot safer. We can now look forward and forget 2020 altogether. The committee and I have had a very unusual year as I am sure you have as well.

We have endeavoured to do our best under these difficult circumstances. The committee had six virtual committee meetings using zoom during the year (June, August, September, October, December and February).

In April we had our first quiz, General Knowledge and Probus Hidden Gem quiz supplied by Cliff Putterford followed in May with a Diltoid quiz supplied by Richard Smith. June, July and August were Famous people quizzes supplied by Robin Haggett.

September, we had a Which Tree quiz supplied by Richard Smith. In October Robin Haggett supplied another famous people quiz followed by Underground stations quiz in November. The Christmas quiz was of carols and Christmas songs again supplied by Robin Haggett.

The New Year quiz was Dingbats supplied by Richard Smith who also organized a Photographic competition on the theme of winter.

I would like to thank James Robertson for producing four newsletters in June, August, October, and December which have kept all members informed and entertained.

Our first "event" of the year was in July a Virtual Talk using Zoom. Speaker Steve Roberts, Subject: Fact or Fiction Mr. Selfridge. In August "Picnic in the Forest" - Bolderwood Deer Sanctuary, September "Picnic in the Forest" #2 Wilverley Plain, October Journey of Discovery in your car and in December Christchurch Walking quiz.

We also had a Golf Competition. Brian Hollowell thrashed everyone by seven points in October.

The Probus Ladies managed four lunches between the lockdowns, and I would like to say thank you to Rosemary Warren for organizing them.

Over my year as President, we have had four deaths: Mike Fay, Jim Cloggie who was a member to 2018, Don Richardson and Ian Arnold Jenkins all well respected members who will be sadly missed.

We also had the resignation of Frank House who is moving location to be closer to family.

I must thank those standing down from the committee this year; our previous past president Ken Heap and Brian Hollowell one of our social secretaries are off

to the back benches for a well-earned rest.

Our social secretaries Brian and Richard who worked very hard to have a full calendar of events and social activities before the lockdown, we hope these can be revitalized in 2021/2022.

I also want to thank Roy for his hard work over the year who has kept our website fresh and relevant.

I would also like to thank all the committee members as due to the pandemic we were all out of our comfort zone throughout the whole year.

My last thank you to Robin Haggett who has supplied most of the quizzes every month and kept the entertainment page of the website full of his jokes and antidotes.

We end my year in a very healthy position in both financial and membership numbers with 52 members including 3 life members.

We hope to welcome new members who have been on our waiting list to be able to join us this year.

It only remains for me to thank everyone who has in any way helped me throughout this year and wish Keith and Maggie every success for the forthcoming year.

Maurice Dowling

President 2020/2021

Membership last AGM: - 51 Active + 6 Life = 57

Membership this AGM: - 49 Active + 3 Life = 52

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