



## THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)

### NEWSLETTER October 2020

#### President's Jottings



We did manage to have the **Picnic in the Forest at Wilverley Plain** on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 12.00pm which was enjoyed by all attendees. We managed to social distance ourselves into small groups of six people or less. It was good to meet up again. And the weather was very kind to us. Unfortunately, the **Probus Weekend Away at Warner's Studley Castle** 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> October **has been cancelled**.

The Covid 19 restrictions would not have allowed us to have a "proper social gathering". Warner's have refunded our deposit. Graham has refunded all monies due to members.

Just a reminder of future events: -

**Christmas Lunch, The Miramar Hotel** Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 10.00am.

With the current restrictions, this is unlikely to go ahead. We shall review it with the hotel in November.

**President's Lunch, Bentley's Restaurant** Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021 12.00pm.

We hope the restrictions will have changed by then.

We will be having another committee meeting using Zoom on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020 10.00am. With regards to the Christchurch Harbour Hotel we shall review the chance of future meetings in December, with a view to holding a Club meeting in January.

Our thoughts are with the family of Don Richardson who passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> August this year. Amanda Don's daughter was very pleased that the club, with the help of Roy, had put together a tribute to Don.

Also in our thoughts is John Enstone, who is in Southampton Hospital awaiting an operation on his heart.

Other general news: -

1<sup>st</sup> August 2020 Lockdown easing on hold as shielding ends. Pubs may need to shut to allow schools to reopen. Subsidies meals by £10.00 Monday to Wednesday starts today and is proving very successful.

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2020 Covid-19 test in 90 minutes could be significant. NASA SpaceX crew return, splashdown.

4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Our third Zoom committee meeting, Picnic in the Forest – Bolderwood which was well attended a good social gathering.

12<sup>th</sup> August 2020 20.4% drop in output, now in recession.

14<sup>th</sup> August 2020 France added to UK quarantine countries.

15<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Britons scramble to get back by 4.00am. Bowling alleys, casinos, theatres, beauticians allowed to open.

17<sup>th</sup> August 2020 Back to swimming, as New Milton Health and Leisure reopens. U-turn on all A level and GCSEs exam results. Now teachers' recommendations taken.

21<sup>st</sup> August 2020 More local lockdowns in the north west of England, Birmingham and other cities put on watch.

1<sup>st</sup> September 2020 My wife and I are planning to go to Cheltenham for a few days for our Wedding Anniversary. Rashford unites food giants to fight child poverty.

2<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 Spent 3 days in Cheltenham as we were unable to go last year with the club. Visited Bourton-on-the-Water (Cotswolds) and Gloucester Cathedral.

7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Seven Greek islands put on England quarantine list.

8<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Christchurch Probus Club Committee meeting using Zoom. 10.00am Wilverley Picnic in the Forest was well attended and a resounding success. Increase in Covid cases

reaches nearly 3000 people a day for 2 days running.

9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Social gatherings over six people to be banned in England.

10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Headlines in newspapers: 'Christmas has been cancelled'.

12<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Lots of large group gatherings.

13<sup>th</sup> September 2020 More large group gatherings

14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 All social gatherings of more than six people will be illegal.

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Matt Hancock – Testing problems to be solved in a matter of weeks.

16<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Tackling testing delays 'number one' priority.

17<sup>th</sup> September 2020 New Covid restrictions for the northeast of England.

18<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Possible nationwide lockdown for two weeks.

19<sup>th</sup> September 2020 New lockdown measures likely in London.

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020 New lockdown measures for England are announced and are to last six months.

24<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Chancellor announces new job protection scheme.

Please stay healthy and safe, I hope to see you soon.

Best Wishes,  
*Maurice Dowling - President*



### **A note from our Dining Secretary**

Following further discussion with The Harbour Hotel and then a review of the findings with the Committee, it was agreed that we would not plan any resumption of lunches

until at least January 2021. This is based on the fact that under the current Government legislation the hotel cannot accommodate the full activities or membership numbers of our club. We as a committee feel it is inappropriate to suggest anything less than a meeting that allows all those who wish to attend to be able to do so. I will be in regular contact with the Hotel, ready to change plans should there be changes in the COVID-19 situation, and will update the membership accordingly.



### **Brian Hollowell storms the Probud Golf Competition**

Brian Hollowell is the 2020 Christchurch Probud Golf Champion, after storming to a 7 point victory at Highcliffe Castle Golf Club. He pushed reigning champion Cliff Putterford into 2<sup>nd</sup> place with a

magnificent round on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October. The competition, which was much delayed by COVID-19 and then player availability, saw Brian (HCap-23) score a massive 43 Stableford points, 7 under his handicap. Cliff (HCap-14) scored 36 points and the rest of the field, including numerous previous winners, were left further behind as Brian produced an excellent score. Unfortunately, the COVID 'rule of 6' meant President Maurice Dowling was unable to attend to present the trophy but it was handed over to Brian outside the Clubhouse in an informal presentation.

Congratulations Brian.

*Cliff Putterford*

### **Member contributions**

**David Marshall**  
*recalls an unusual encounter with the emergency services in his bedroom:*

Pam has had a few heart problems, and her consultant asked me to monitor her blood pressure for a week. On the Thursday of the first week the night reading was 220/115 and I became rather anxious, so phoned 111. We had a discussion with the nurse, both of us on separate phones, and the nurse said she needed to consult with a higher authority, so would ring us back. By now it was 11:30pm, we were in bed, and went to sleep. Unfortunately, Pam had not turned her phone off.

I was awakened at 1:30 in the night with someone calling my name and they were in my house! I went



to the top of the stairs and there was fireman dressed in all his finery, with a flashlight in his hand. It transpired the nurse had phoned back, could not get through, and called the ambulance. They knocked on our front door, called through the letter box but we were dead to the world. They called the fire brigade, who found a small window open and managed to open an adjacent door, hence the fireman on our stairs.

Pam slept all through this and only woke up when two ambulance staff were at her bedside! Enough to make the blood pressure even higher. Lucky the window was open, or it would have meant breaking the front door down. The other good news was that Pam survived the night and next day received new medication, and is now much better.

## Chuckle time...



*It's 6 months since I joined the gym and no progress.  
I'm going there in person tomorrow, to find out what's really going on.*

I went for an interview at IKEA.

The manager greeted me by saying "Come in, make a seat".

*Of all my body parts, my fingers are the most reliable.*

*I can always count on them.*

Thanks to Maurice Dowling

*and also to Cliff Putterford...*

*After last month's appalling joke play on the Spanish Language 'Poor for Four', I offer this as better or worse depending, on your viewpoint;*

Two eminent mathematicians, one English, one French, both kept cats and both loved sailing. Being mathematicians, they had named the cats Onetwothree and Undeuxtros respectively. One day, over a few drinks, they had a bet as to which could teach their cat to sail single-handed across the Channel. Months of training ensued, until finally the day of the race came. However, with crowds massed at the start and the whole mathematics world plus millions more tuned in on the internet, the race began. Sadly there was to be a real anti-climax. Within metres of the start... Undeuxtros cat sank.



## 'Wherever I hang my hat...'

**Frank House** wonders whether any other member has lived in more places than he has?



1. Born Plymouth, Devon.
2. Forsyth, Scotland.
3. London. (Wartime).
4. Bath, Somerset (Wartime).
5. Portsmouth, Hampshire.
6. Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
7. Reading, Berkshire.
8. Sonning Common, Oxfordshire.
9. Barton-on-sea, Hampshire.

Abroad.

1. Simon's Town, South Africa
2. Ottawa, Canada



## Robin's Nest

For those of you not familiar with 'Geocaching', this is a hi-tech treasure hunt whereby the treasure, or 'caches', can be found by way of GPS co-ordinates, hidden away in Tupperware or ammo

boxes containing a log book and other small items. There are now over one million active caches worldwide.

And one of these can be found in the hedge surrounding Christchurch Recreation Ground, and is called 'Robin's Nest', which may just give you a clue to its owner!

It's a Tupperware box containing a number of small robins – the type that you can buy for decorating iced cakes. Those finding Robin's Nest log their visit on the website ([www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com)), take a robin away, and then place it in another cache that they visit. Of course here in Christchurch we get visitors from far and wide, and I have received reports of robins returning to Grand Canaria, Eastern Europe and Australia!

I first placed the cache in the hedge in 2009, since when it has been found by 920 visitors – even by a few people during lockdown (not sure that Boris



would approve!) - so I'm hoping to make it to one thousand sometime next year.

*Robin Haggett*

## In Memoriam Don Richardson



*Don died on 20<sup>th</sup> August, aged 96, our oldest member. He is pictured wearing his Légion d'Honneur medal, awarded for his bravery in wartime France. Don served in the Royal Engineers surveying railways, which included looking for booby-trap bombs beside the track. Some members share their memories of Don...*

I count myself fortunate to be able to say I was a friend of Don Richards for almost 25 years. We were first introduced to one another through our respective wives, who played golf together at Highcliffe Castle G.C. For several years, Don and I also played golf together at the same course. We enjoyed socialising with Pam and Don, arranging occasional meals together at each others' homes and at Christchurch Sailing Club.

In 1997 Don introduced me to Probus, for which I will be forever grateful.

Throughout our friendship, I found Don to be a very relaxed and grounded person. When he was persuaded to talk about them I found his wartime experiences to be very interesting and, although there must have been times when he was in extreme danger, he always spoke about them in a light-hearted manner so typical of that Great Generation to which we owe the freedoms that we enjoy today.

Rest in Peace my friend

*Mike Penn*

I recall a very happy visit to Don and Pam's house in 2018, during my year as Welfare Officer. Don told me then that regrettably he was unlikely to attend any more Probus meetings ( 'as I don't get up until 10.00.am these days!'), and indeed that was the last time I saw him. But he was a most convivial gentleman with a keen sense of humour, being quite amused to be informed at that time that he was then

the oldest member of the Club, and he will be sadly missed.

*Robin Haggett*

Don was a gentleman in the true sense of the word. He was always gentle in his manner and in his manners. He was a true friend to all, would always have a word with you, whether he immediately recalled you or your name! He and his easy way with one and all will be sadly missed.

*Les Denmead*

Don was a typical unsung hero. A quiet man, who was very sincere and an important member of our Probus Club. I very much enjoyed his war memories, and always welcomed a chance to speak with him, because you could be assured of an interesting conversation. I will miss Don and he will never leave my memory. We have lost another of our Heroes.

*Ken Goodman*

I am glad to have known Don, if only for a few years. A very modest man who played down his heroic actions during the Second World War.

He had a great personality, and always had time to talk to anyone. Don was our oldest member and will be sadly missed.

*Maurice Dowling*

A letter of thanks from Don's family:

*Dear Maurice*

*On behalf of our mother, Pam Richardson, and all the family thank you so much for your kind donation to the Royal Engineers Association in memory of our father, Don. Mother also wants to thank you for the lovely tribute you sent on behalf of Probus. It is a wonderful dedication to Don.*

*Please pass on our thanks to your friends at Probus and once again, many thanks for your kind support.*

*with very best wishes*

*Amanda Bentley-Buckle*

### A thought for the day

"Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better."

*Maya Angelou*

*Thank you to all contributors to this edition. More contributions not just welcome, but essential if you would like more newsletters during this time of you know what!*

*Ed.*