

## WEBSITE REPORT – 2017/18 Robin Haggett

The officers elected for this year were Mike Harrold, (standing down after many years as Dining Secretary to become Vice President), Secretary - Maurice Dowling, Programme Secretary – Ken Heap, Treasurer – Mike Fay, Dining Secretary - Colin Dobson (standing down as Social Secretary), and Social Secretaries – Graham Smith and David Dunsmore. Don Warren was also elected on to the committee to serve as assistant to the Treasurer. Graham Newton, as Immediate Past President was ex-officio a member of the committee and served as Welfare Officer.

Maurice Dowling had been covering the role of Webmaster following Mike Collard's move away, and Maurice kindly agreed to continue to 'double up' in this way until a suitable replacement was found to take over responsibility for the Website. David Howell was once again re-elected to provide independent verification of our Accounts at the year end. During the year it was decided to appoint a Press / Media Secretary on a trial basis, and Keith Puttick took up this position.

A particular highlight during the year was our 40th anniversary lunch at Carey's Manor, when Nick Geary, the Mayor of Christchurch was our special guest. Towards the end of the year, quite by chance he happened to meet up with the President at another (non-Probus) event, and without any prompting he remarked how much he had enjoyed the lunch and what a very friendly club he had found us to be.

As is our custom we invited our wives / partners and Associate Members to join us for two of our monthly meetings – in May and December. Both these meetings were very well attended. The speakers during the year covered a wide range of subjects – too many to mention individually, but subjects such as 'Hypnotherapy', Bournemouth Blue Plaques' and the 'Highball Bouncing Bomb' may give some indication of the wide variety of the talks. And Programme Secretary Ken Heap put his police background to good use, with other speakers including the Head of Dorset Police Cyber Crime Unit, the first elected Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, and a talk from a recently retired Senior Officer about Forensic Collision Investigation.

The President's 'weekend away' took place in October - this time at Warner's Hotel in Bembridge on the Isle of Wight, with 32 attendees. This generally went very well, although the band performing on the Saturday night was certainly not to everyone's taste!

This was followed by the 40th anniversary quiz night to which we were indebted to Mike Harrold for the use of the prestigious Christchurch Masonic Centre. This was so successful that it has been agreed to hold a similar event in the following year.

Apart from the special 40th anniversary events, the social calendar for the Club continued unabated and included a visit to the RNLI Headquarters in Poole, a coach trip to Bletchley Park, and nearer to home, coffee mornings, a hog roast, and a skittles match at various local hostelries.

It was around autumn that we found ourselves needing to explore the possibility of moving away from the East Close Hotel, and after many visits to other venues we drew up a short list of other options. However, with the arrival of Ashley Procter, the new manager at the East Close, it was agreed to give her a chance to improve standards, and following her arrival in the New Year, it was nice to see her, quite unprompted, introducing herself to members at the February lunch. With a new Head Chef having also recently been appointed, we are hoping that the decision to remain at the East Close for the time being will be vindicated. More recently during the Presidential year, a sub-committee was set up to study the implications of the GDPR – the General Data Protection Regulations – which were due to come into force in May 2018. The expertise of Ken Heap and Graham Newton was very much to the fore during this exercise, and opt-in forms were designed to be signed by all members in order

to indicate the ways in which they are happy for their personal data to be held.

Finally, the President's Lunch this year was held at Bentley's Restaurant at Dudsbury Golf Club, although the original date set for this (Friday March 2nd) transpired to be the worst day, weather wise, for many years, with deep snow surrounding the whole area. Consequently, we were permitted to postpone the event without charge, and this was eventually held, very successfully, on Friday April 13th (Friday the 13th seemed particularly appropriate!). It was however the first time in the history of the Club that the President's Lunch was held when the President had already stood down from office.....

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