

# THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



## NEWSLETTER April 2016

### Presidential Ramblings!!

We've just invested in a set of solar panels on our roof and it would be true to say that this particular bit of technology is upsetting a great many of our routines! We used to run things like our washing machine and our dishwasher overnight, but are now having to reorganise in all sorts of ways so that we can use as much of the electricity generated on our roof as possible. At the moment, with it all so new, I think I am driving Angela nuts – watching every appliance to try to only have one major item on at a time and as many during sunlight hours, and as few after dark!!

Another change in routines has come with the dawn of my year as Probud President. Keeping in touch with our New Zealand friends has been a significant part of the monthly routine in our house – as has the work involved in being the Programme secretary. We only have one computer so there has been the regular need for “negotiation” between Angela and I about whose turn it was on the computer and for how long (always amicable negotiation, I hasten to add)!! Well all that has gone with Robin and Ken taking these things on. I do wish them well and thank them for stepping “up to the plate” – I certainly enjoyed both roles.

The change to being your President is one that I embrace as an honour, gladly accepting the duties and responsibilities that go with “the badge”. It gives me another opportunity to play my part in the continuing wellbeing of our Club. I/we am/are happy to make the changes to my/our routine(s) that are necessitated to fulfil the role of President because I think we are a good club – one which is open to and accepting of the newcomer; one which meets in large measure the varied interests of our members. I hope that the year ahead will see a continuity in that ethos.

I hope too that this year, together we can build on the strength of fellowship that we enjoy and together we can work to enlarge our membership. The vital word here is the word, “together”. We would be

enormously strengthened and enriched as a club if just half of us could bring one new member into the club so let's all keep that thought in mind and build/grow for the future together.

Graham Newton

**President**

### Annual General Meeting

The 39<sup>th</sup> AGM, held on the 1st March 2016 at the East Close Hotel, was attended by 31 members, with 11 apologies for absence.

The new committee for 2016 was elected ‘en bloc’ as follows:-

Vice President	Robin Haggett
Hon. Secretary	Maurice Dowling
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Fay
Programme Secretary	Ken Heap
Dining Secretary	Mike Harrold
Social Secretaries	Colin Dobson Graham Smith
Webmaster	Mike Collard
Welfare Officer	David Sutcliffe
Committee Member	Don Warren

Steward Les Denmead  
The title of Steward is not a committee position.

### Subscriptions and Fees

It was agreed that the joining fee of £15 and the monthly meeting charge of £20 should remain together with the annual subscription fee of £25

**Please note that your annual subscriptions are now due.** The Treasurer will be pleased to receive your cheque for £25, made payable to Christchurch Probud Club.

### Changes to Club Rules

Only one change was agreed to the Rules of the Club:

Rule 4. After the words “Members who do not pay their subscription within six months of the AGM will be deemed to have resigned” these words are added - “unless the cause of such non-payment is accepted by the Committee”.

## Meeting Procedures

Committee meetings will continue to be held at 9.30am, with the general meetings starting at 10.45am, and coffee being served from 10.15am.

## Website

Mike Collard informed members of his forthcoming departure and the consequent need for a volunteer to take over from him.

The website address is:

[www.probuschristchurch.org.uk](http://www.probuschristchurch.org.uk)

Please do take the opportunity to visit the site and give us your views.

## Recent Speakers

We have once again been greatly entertained at the monthly meetings by some very interesting talks, with 'Poole Potter' by Alan White, with an interesting demo, entwined with Kate Taylor's 'The Russell-Cotes Museum' by Nicholas Hawkins, 'The 'Real' Dad's Army' by Dale Johnson, and (at the President's lunch) 'The Ladies of the Tower' by Tony Stafford, one of the "best" speakers we have had. Then in March, following the AGM, our own member Harold Jones gave us 'Suez', an interesting, and at times an amusing account of his time as an airman. A varied mix of politics, aircraft, and Operational procedures with photographs. I sure we would welcome Harold back to continue his insights into Suez.

## Membership

We have been very pleased to welcome one new member since our last Newsletter was issued:

**David Dunsmore** was introduced to the club by Colin Dobson our Social Secretary. David was previously in Banking as a Bank Official. He lives in Mudeford and is a neighbor of Colin. His interests are Rambling, Travel and Reading.

We would also like to welcome back **Keith Puttick** who resigned last year due to other commitments. Keith has now rejoined this April and we all welcome him back. He still suffers greatly from being a supporter of Aston Villa Football Club!

## Reminder of the Attendance Rules

Members unable to attend any of these meetings must inform the Dining Secretary (Mike Harrold – 01425-271860 or [mike\\_harrold@btinternet.com](mailto:mike_harrold@btinternet.com)) **at the latest by the Friday preceding the meeting.**

Additionally, if any member has dietary problems with the meal specified, please speak to Mike (again, by the preceding Friday) about a possible alternative being provided. This year an alternative vegetarian option will be available at every meeting.

All main courses are served with Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

## Future Speakers and Menus in 2016

**5<sup>th</sup> April** – Paul Barrett – 'Montovani, King of Strings'

VoT – Tony Garland

Grilled Plaice Fillets

Parsley Mash, Prawn & Caper Butter

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Sweet Potato & Aubergine

Thai Green Curry

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Warm Chocolate Brownie

Clotted Cream Ice-Cream

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** (with our Ladies) – Michael Andrews – 'Christchurch, A smuggling Town'

VoT – John Irons

Roast Leg of Lamb

Sweet Potato & Leek Mash, Minted Gravy

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Roasted Pepper & Asparagus Tart

New Potatoes

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Toffee Apple Crumble

Custard

**7<sup>th</sup> June** – Pat Taylor – "Secrets of Cunard"

VoT – Graham Smith

Breast of Chicken

Lyonnais Potato, Wild Mushroom Cream Sauce

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Mushroom, Spinach & Pine Nut Gnocchi

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Strawberry Mille Feuille

**5<sup>th</sup> July** – Robin Miller – 'Volcanoes'

VoT – John Bexon

Slow Roasted Pork Belly

Dauphinoise Potato, Mustard Jus

~

Pea & Asparagus Risotto

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Dark Chocolate & Hazelnut Tart

Chocolate Ice-Cream

**2<sup>nd</sup> August** – Peter Roberts – 'The New Forest from Conqueror to National'

VoT – David Poynton

Herb Crusted Cod Fillet  
Crushed Potato, Mussel Chowder

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Beer Battered Haloumi & Chips  
Mushy Peas, Tartare Sauce

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Glazed Lemon Tart  
Raspberry Sorbet

**6<sup>th</sup> September** – Dave Goldsmith – ‘The Andean  
Medical Mission’  
VoT – Mike Fay

Trio of Sausage & Mash  
Spiced Red Cabbage

~

Roasted Squash & Feta Pie

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Key Lime Meringue Pie

**4<sup>th</sup> October** – John Smith – ‘The Channel Dash  
February 1942’  
VoT – Harold Jones

Lamb & Root Vegetable Hot Pot

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Red Pepper, Leek & Brie Strudel

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Apple & Cinnamon Pie  
Crème Anglaise

**1<sup>st</sup> November** – Ron Taylor - ‘From Stourhead to  
Stanpits’  
VoT – Mike Harrold

Honey Roast Gammon  
Sweet Potato mash, Parsley Sauce

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Roasted Squash & Courgette Open Lasagne

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Pear, Chocolate & Almond Slice  
Cinnamon Ice-Cream

**6<sup>th</sup> December** (with our Ladies) – Paul Carpenter –  
‘Clowning Around’  
VoT – Ken Heap

Festive Christmas Lunch Menu

### For Your Diary:

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**  
Tour of Christchurch Priory with 3 options.  
Tour starting at 10.00 am taking two hours  
including the tower and a light lunch. Cost £15.00

Tour starting at 11.00 am ground floor only (no  
stairs) and the light Lunch. Cost £10.00  
If you would like to join us for lunch only at 12.00  
Noon you can. Cost £5.00

### Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> April

Tour of Hall and Woodhouse Brewery, Blandford  
Forum  
The Tour will start at 10.30 am and takes about two  
hours.  
Cost of the Tour will be £10.00 per person which  
includes coffee on arrival and a beer before you  
leave.

### Joke Corner

**PROBUS:** What does it mean?

**Prostate Removed Other Bits Under Suspicion**

There must be more. All contributions gratefully  
received.

I watched a funeral go by and asked who was dead.  
A man said, “The fella in the box”

There’s no point taking out life insurance. My uncle  
did and he died all the same.

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are camping in  
the New Forest, contemplating a new mystery. After  
a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for  
the night and went to sleep. Some hours later,  
Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend.  
“Watson look up at the sky and tell me what you  
see.

Watson looked up and replied, “I see millions and  
millions of stars”.

“What does that tell you?” asked Holmes.

Watson pondered for a minute. “Astronomically it  
tells me that there are millions of galaxies and  
potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I  
observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I  
deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past  
three. Meteorologically, I suspect that we have a  
beautiful day tomorrow. What does it tell you,  
Sherlock?”

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke.  
“It tells me someone has stolen our tent.”

A recent study has found that women who carry a  
little extra weight live longer than the men who  
mention it.

For St. Patrick's Day

I'm sick of all the Irish Stereotypes.  
As soon as I finish this drink,  
I'm punching someone.

Paddy and Mick are walking down the road and  
Paddy has a bag of donuts.

Paddy says to Mick, "If you can guess how many  
donuts I have you may have them both."

Mick says, "Four?"

Murphy says to Paddy, "what's ya talking into an  
envelope for?"  
Paddy replies, "I'm sending a voice mail you dam  
fool!"