

THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



NEWSLETTER June 2019

PRESIDENT'S JOTTINGS

Hi everyone,

Welcome to the first newsletter of my year in office. I set for myself a personal theme for the year of 'inclusivity' and hopefully you will have already noticed that, one by one, you will all enjoy lunch on the president's table during the year. I have also introduced our 'hidden gems' monthly notelets. These are designed to help members get to know each other a little better by sharing an interest, incident or hobby involving them. These will help us all understand each other a little more and aid conversation and friendship.

At the time of writing our additional social events have included an afternoon tea at Haskins garden centre. This was an oversubscribed event where the stars of the afternoon were David and Jane Dunsmore who won the quiz first prize of an open air fire donated by Haskins. It looked great but to date I'm still a little unsure of what it actually does? I have also managed to take the club to the 'dogs' at the Poole greyhound racing stadium. Although many professed to have achieved great winnings on a race or two, I think overall the bookies won again. It was a great pity that no one backed the orange-coloured hare that won every race!! There has also been an afternoon tea at Sculptures by the Lake near Dorchester.

Our next joint event with our ladies is the June meeting where we have a speaker on 'Cruising Down the Danube'.

These extra events do not just happen, so can I personally thank the committee members, and in particular Brian and Jan Hollowell, together with Richard Smith and Annie, for their efforts in making this a great start to 2019.

Finally, an advertisement, we have at last decided on the "weekend away" venue on the weekend of 27-29 September to the historic town and area of Cheltenham. There is plenty to do and see there including the Cotswolds, Gloucester, Worcester and Evesham, all within easy reach. The price includes three nights' bed, breakfast and dinner, and a one hour each way trip on the Gloucester and Warwick Steam railway (cost is £435 per couple). Please contact Brian Hollowell if you can join us.

Best wishes
Ken Heap,
President

General Club Reminders

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.

Subscriptions and Fees

Joining Fee £15.00
Subscription Fee £25.00
Lunch Fee £22.00
Attendance at Meeting only £5.00

Attendance Rules

Members unable to attend any of the following meetings must inform the Dining Secretary (Colin Dobson – Telephone 01425-271953 or e-mail colin@goblins.plus.com) **at the latest by lunch time on the Saturday preceding the meeting.** Additionally, if any member has dietary problems with the meal specified, please speak to Colin (again, by the preceding Saturday) about a possible alternative being provided.

Future Speakers / Menu information

In order to make the most of the new menus received from the Christchurch Harbour Hotel, the Dining Secretary will give members a choice of three mains (meat, fish or vegetarian) and three desserts. Members will make their selections from a list provided the month before. All main courses are served with Fresh Seasonal Vegetables.

4th June (with Ladies) – Mike Webber – Cruising Down the Danube

2nd July – David Beardsley – Dorset History Centre

6th August – Gerard O’Boyle – Quotes and Anecdotes

3rd September – Robin Miller – The Normandy Campaign WWII

1st October – John Ellis – The Making of a Museum - Beaulieu

5th November – Stephen Robson – Charles Roll and Britain’s First International Aviation Meeting

18th December, Christmas Lunch (with Ladies)
– Colin Van Geffen – Lawrence of Arabia

For Your Diary:

Wednesday, 12th June

Boat Trip on the Kennet and Avon Canal
Organised by Bournemouth Probus 2.
Flyer distributed.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, 27, 28, 29 September
Probus Weekend Away
@ Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Cheltenham.
Flyer distributed.

Wednesday, 18th December
Christmas Lunch (with Ladies)
@ Christchurch Harbour Hotel.
Details to be distributed.

Friday, 14th February 2020
President’s Lunch.
Details to be distributed.

Website

Our Clubs website address is:

www.probuschristchurch.org.uk

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

Recent Speakers

As always, we have been greatly entertained at the monthly meetings by some very interesting talks.

Last December **Dylis Nicholas**, a volunteer at Cherry Tree Nursery in Northbourne, told us how the nursery provides sheltered work for people unable to cope with everyday life, and has operated for over 25 years.

Dylis reminded members of the historical stigma associated with mental health when, even in the 1980’s, Victorian asylums were common. These asylums were slowly replaced by “care in the community” but these positive steps took time as the “not in my back yard” syndrome was very prevalent.

The Cherry Tree Nursery was the idea of two local vicars who got together to support and enrich people’s lives by combining this with their other passion, horticulture.

Starting with four volunteers on two acres in 1990, they now support 120 volunteers on 4.5 acres. The nursery also offers the volunteers both basic and accredited courses covering literacy, numeracy IT and horticulture.



Cooperisms: I said to the doctor, “Doctor, I’ve broken my arm in several places”. He said, “Well, you shouldn’t go to those places”!

The Roman Army, Fact or Fiction was the talk by **John Smith** in February. 50,000 Romans were deployed in Great Britain and they were the first to introduce fixed value money. All the soldiers were paid, however they were also taxed to provide future pensions.

John brought with him an array of exact replica weapons and armour. His explanations about the use

of helmets, body armour, shields, swords and pila (javelins) implied a sound knowledge of the people who used them, the society that created them and, of course, those unfortunates who were on the receiving end of it all.

In March, **John Rogers**, a volunteer at the Bournemouth Leonard Cheshire home, gave an informative talk on the compassionate war hero and charity founder Leonard Cheshire.

Lord Cheshire was born in 1917 and educated at Oxford. In a distinguished career as an RAF pilot he flew over 100 bombing missions and was made Group Captain at the age of 25. He spent eight months leading 617 squadron – the Dambusters. Cheshire was also one of two British observers of the nuclear bombing of Nagasaki in Japan.

After taking into his home a terminally ill cancer patient, Arthur Dykes, he set up the charity Leonard Cheshire Disability and by 1949 it had 24 patients with complex needs. Further homes were set up in Kent and in 1959 he married Sue Ryder who had set up similar homes.

At our AGM in March, **Mike Harrold** passed the baton to new President **Ken Heap** who told us how much he was looking forward to being President over the coming year.

After the AGM, club member **Keith Puttick** gave an amusing talk on running the New York Marathon. He described the start area of the marathon, which has “the longest urinal in the world”, as a cross between the Glastonbury pop festival and the comedy film MASH.

On a slightly more serious note, Keith described how tough the race was, as out of the 33,534 people who started the race, only 29,373 finished.

At April’s meeting, **David Ottley** gave an interesting and detailed talk entitled The Submariner. David is an ex-submariner and a volunteer guide at the Gosport Royal Navy Submarine Museum.

David took us from the very first submarine attack in New York Harbour in 1776 through to nuclear submarines, on which he saw service. He covered submarine usage in the American Civil War, the invention of the Torpedo in 1880, and the evacuation procedure from a damaged submarine.

Membership

We are very pleased to welcome four new members since our last Newsletter was issued:

James Wheildon

Wife: Mila
Joined May 2019
Journalist
Hobbies: Walking, Swimming, History.

Chris Mosley

Wife: Beryl
Joined June 2019
Chartered Surveyor
Hobbies: Classical Music, Gardening, Photography.

Ron Loveless

Wife: Sandy
Joined June 2019
Company Sales/Marketing Director
Hobbies: Sport, Charity Work, Fund Raising.

John Roberts

Wife: Marilyn
Joined June 2019
Factory Manager
Hobbies: Fishing, Gardening, Watching Sports.

A warm welcome to all.

While we promote our Club through Posters, local Newspapers and Magazines, the most successful method in recruiting new members comes from existing members introducing friends, neighbours and other acquaintances. If anybody you know shows an interest please bring them along to check us out – and enjoy their free lunch!



Cooperisms: My wife was looking at a Women’s magazine and she saw this fur coat. She said, “I want that”. So, I cut it out and gave it to her!

Editors Note

Articles or jokes from Club Members who would like to contribute to our Newsletter will always be welcome. Contact Keith Puttick or send to theputticks@uwclub.net. Thank you.

Who's the Duck? No prizes! (*Answer at bottom of page*)



Ladies Lunch Club

Our ladies' group meets on the second Wednesday of every month for lunch, trying to go to a different venue each time. We do however have our favourite eating places!!! A week before, I contact everyone with the details and also to know how many seats to book. We number on average about 14 and we would welcome any new ladies who would like to join us . . . an excellent way to get to know the other wives if you are new to the Club.

On the 4th Wednesday of each month some of our ladies meet at the Lord Bute for coffee at 10.00am, just come along and catch up with our news.

If you would like more information, either see me after our lunch on June 4th, or you can phone me 01202 420501, 07857618071 or e-mail me at nannyrosemary9@gmail.com.

I shall look forward to hearing from you.

Rosemary Warren

Cooperisms: A man ran over a hare so he stopped his car, got out and gave the hare a swig from his hip flask. All of a sudden, the hare jumped up and ran off. His friend said, "That's amazing! What the hell have you got in that flask?" The man said, "Hare Restorer!"



Not a Cooperism, but quite amusing!

An attractive young blonde woman failed to stop at a red traffic light and crashed into a man's car. Both of their cars were demolished but, amazingly, neither of them was hurt.

After they crawled out of their cars, the woman said, "Wow, just look at our cars! There's nothing left, but fortunately, we are unhurt. This must be a sign from God that we should meet and be friends and live together in peace for the rest of our days."

The man replied, "I agree with you completely. This must be a sign from God!"

The young woman continued, "And look at this, here's another miracle. My car is completely demolished, but my bottle of 75-year-old Scotch didn't break. Surely God meant us to drink this vintage delicacy and celebrate our good fortune." Then she handed the bottle to the man.

The man nodded his head in agreement, opened it and drank half the bottle, then handed it back to the young woman. The woman took the bottle and immediately put the cap back on, and handed it back to the man.

The man asks, "Aren't you having any?"

She replies, "Nah, I think I'll just wait for the Police!"

Editors Note

As agreed by your Committee, our Newsletters will be distributed in June and December for the foreseeable future.

Who's the Duck? Past President Mike Harrold!