

# THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



## NEWSLETTER

April 2017

### 40<sup>th</sup> Year of Christchurch Probuss

#### Presidential Ramblings!!

Well, firstly many thanks to Maurice for producing this newsletter in his usual timely fashion – I know all too well how long it can take.

But you will see that the normal heading of ‘President’s Remarks’ has been changed by him – how well Maurice knows me!

However, I shall try not to ramble on too long, but I cannot let the occasion pass without mentioning our membership figure – the total is now up to 48 – checking my old records from my time as Secretary, that’s certainly the highest figure that we’ve achieved during that period.

For as long as I can remember, it has been an aspiration of the Club to have 50 members. It’s very rare for anyone to resign from the Club, but you will all be aware of the main reason why we sadly lose members, and in attracting new members to the Club, experience has shown that there is just no substitute to personal invitations.

So I would really encourage you all too please introduce any friends or neighbours whom you feel would be suitable. And of course there is the ‘carrot’ of providing a potential new member with a free meal on the first occasion that they join us.

Can we possibly reach that magic 50 total during our anniversary year? It’s certainly a great objective to have!

It’s going to be, I hope, an eventful year, one that is fitting for our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and you will see later in this newsletter that we have one or two special celebratory events lined up. I am looking forward to it immensely.

Robin Haggett

**President**

#### Annual General Meeting

The 40<sup>th</sup> AGM, held on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2017 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	Mike Harrold
Hon. Secretary	Maurice Dowling
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Fay
Programme Secretary	Ken Heap
Dining Secretary	Colin Dobson
Social Secretaries	David Dunsmore Graham Smith
Webmaster	Keith Puttick
Welfare Officer	Graham Newton
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 unchanged 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 Probuss Club.

#### Club Rules

Remain unchanged

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#### 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

Since the AGM, Keith Puttick has stepped down as Webmaster and Maurice Dowling has kindly agreed to cover this position for the time being.

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.

## Ladies Group

Rosemary Warren has been organising a group of our ladies, who meet informally – for lunch on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday monthly, and for coffee at the Lord Bute Hotel, Highcliffe on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday monthly.

Dates for **April** are:

**12<sup>th</sup>** – Lunch, venue to be advised

**26<sup>th</sup>** – Coffee at the Lord Bute, Lymington Road

Any ladies who have not so far attended will be made very welcome – please contact **Rosemary Warren** for further details.

## Recent Speakers

We have once again been greatly entertained at the monthly meetings by some very interesting talks, with ‘Secrets of Cunard’ by Patsy Taylor. Who we liked so much we invited back for The President’s Lunch with ‘Memories of Fleet Street’. One of the ‘best’ speakers we have had. ‘Volcanoes’ by Robin Miller, ‘The Channel Dash’ by John Smith. ‘From Stourhead to Stanpits’ by Ron Taylor. ‘The London Underground’ by Steve Roberts. Then in March, following the AGM, our own member John Umfreville gave us ‘Probian Humour’, an interesting, and at times an amusing account of his time in six Probus Clubs over 25 years. John covered some of the situations which a President may have to deal with. To list just a few examples – a letter of application from a prospective new member who has clearly misunderstood the purpose of the club, a letter from the catering manager of a proposed venue setting out a menu that is anything but appetising, and the offer of a talk from a speaker who describes a speech that will be of interest to absolutely no-one!

Altogether it was a most entertaining speech with more than a hint of truth in some of the tales that John recounted.

We hope this high standard of speakers will be continued for the rest of 2017.

## Membership

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

**Richard Smith** was previously a Reprographics Manager. He lives in Bournemouth. His interests are Graphic Design, drawing and painting, eating out, the theatre and cinema.

**Brian Hollowell** was introduced to the club by David Marshall. Brian was previously a Purchasing and Quality Management. He lives in Highcliffe. His interests are Golf, Photography and Walking.

**James Robertson.** James was/is a Vicar. He lives in Christchurch. His interests are Walking and Cycling.

**Roy Townshend** was introduced to the club by Colin Dobson. Roy was previously a Vice President of Fuji Canada Inc. He lives in Christchurch. His interests are Photography, computers and Reading. He is about to join us at our April Meeting.

A very warm welcome to all.

## Reminder of the Attendance Rules

Members unable to attend any of these meetings must inform the Dining Secretary (Colin Dobson – 01425-271953 or [colin@goblins.plus.com](mailto:colin@goblins.plus.com)) **at the latest by the Friday preceding the meeting.**

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

All main courses are served with Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

## Future Speakers and Menus in 2017

**4<sup>th</sup> April** – Kathy McNally - Spying 'The Great Game'

VoT – Tony Garland

Pork & Leek Sausages

Herb Mash Potato, Onion Jus

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Quorn & Butternut Squash Lasagne

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Spotted Dick

Crème Anglaise

**2nd May** (with our Ladies) – Steve Roberts –  
'Bournemouth Blue Plaques'  
VoT – Richard Porter

Roasted Salmon Fillet  
Nicoise Salad  
\*\*\*\*\*

Broccoli & Blue Cheese Quiche  
Mixed Salad  
\*\*\*\*\*

Strawberry Mille-Feuille

**6<sup>th</sup> June** – Alan Jones – 'Hypnotherapy'  
VoT – John Irons

Chicken Wrapped in Parma Ham  
Dauphinoise Potato, Tarragon Cream Sauce  
\*\*\*\*\*

Asparagus & Spinach Linguini  
Sun blushed Tomato Pesto  
\*\*\*\*\*

Milk Chocolate & Frangipane Tart  
Clotted Cream

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Celebration Meal**

**Carey's Manor Hotel**  
**Brockenhurst**

Avril Owton – 'The Show must go on'  
VoT – Ken Heap

Full details have been distributed.

**4<sup>th</sup> July** – Howard Nicholls – 'Trans Siberian  
Express'

VoT – John Umfreville

Quiche Lorraine  
Buttered New Potatoes & Salad  
\*\*\*\*\*

Roasted Pepper & Courgette Gnocchi  
Rocket salad  
\*\*\*\*\*

Profiteroles  
Chocolate Sauce

**1st August** – David Shead – 'Little known Battle of  
Britain stories'

VoT – John Reid

Grilled Cod Fillet  
Mussel & Prawn Chowder  
\*\*\*\*\*

Spinach & Goats Cheese Tart  
Roasted New Potatoes  
\*\*\*\*\*

Chocolate Crème Brulee  
Biscotti

**5<sup>th</sup> September** – Nick Hawkin – 'The enduring  
mystery of the Mary Celeste'  
VoT – David Sutcliffe

Chargrilled Gammon Steak  
Sweet Potato Mash, Parsley sauce  
\*\*\*\*\*

Wild Mushroom Gnocchi  
Truffle oil  
\*\*\*\*\*

Lemon Tart  
Raspberry Sorbet

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**  
**40<sup>th</sup> Celebration Meal and Quiz**

**Christchurch Masonic Centre**

Details to be announced

**3<sup>rd</sup> October** – John Symonds – 'The wireless in  
wartime'

VoT – John Bexon

Beef Bourguignon  
Mash Potato  
\*\*\*\*\*

Beetroot & Goats Cheese Risotto  
\*\*\*\*\*

Warm Poached Pear  
Vanilla Ice-Cream

**7<sup>th</sup> November** – Simon Hayes - 'The role of Police  
& Crime Commissioners'

VoT – Geoff Wilson

Herb Crusted Cod Fillet  
Crushed New Potatoes, Parsley Velouté  
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Winter Vegetable Gnocchi  
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Rhubarb & Apple Crumble  
Vanilla Ice-Cream

**5<sup>th</sup> December**

**East Close Hotel** – Speaker TBA

Festive Christmas Lunch Menu

**14<sup>th</sup> December** (with our Ladies)

**The South Lawn Hotel**

Pauline Rowson – 'Crime writer, author'

VoT – Graham Newton

Festive Christmas Lunch Menu

## For Your Diary:

- a) Bletchley Park Coach trip Joint Venture by Bournemouth Probus 2 and Christchurch Probus organised by Tony Garland on **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May**  
Full details have been distributed and are on the website
- b) Stanpit Marsh Tour and lunch  
**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May**  
Full details have been distributed and are on the website
- c) 40th Celebration Meal, Carey's Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst  
**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June**  
Full details have been distributed and are on the website
- d) 40th Celebration Meal and Quiz, Christchurch Masonic Centre  
**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**  
Details to be announced.
- e) President's "Weekend Away", Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight  
**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**  
Full details have been distributed and are on the website

## Joke Corner

### God's Prerogative?

Obama, Clinton and Trump are standing at the throne of heaven. God looks at them and says, "Before granting you a place here I must ask you what you have learned and what you believe in."

Obama thinks long and hard, "I believe in hard work, and in staying true to family and friends. I always tried to do right by my countrymen".

God can't help but see the essential goodness of Obama and offers him a seat to his left.

God then turns to Hillary Clinton. "I believe passion, discipline, courage and honour are the fundamentals of life. Like Obama I believe in hard work. I've always tried to be a true patriot and a loyal American" She says.

God is greatly moved and offers her a seat to his right.

Finally, God turns to Trump and says, "And you, Donald, what do you believe?"

Trump replies, "I believe you're in my seat."

## For St. Patrick's Day

Seen in a Dublin newspaper: Prize crossword. Solve it and win £20,000 plus a holiday for two in Paris.

For those only playing for fun, the answers are on page 14.

Sign on the coast road by a small Sligo village:  
'When you can't read this sign, the road is flooded.'

'I want some six by four timber for the new barn,' said Cassidy. 'We don't call it that now,' said the DIY manager. 'Since we've gone metric you have to ask for 15.2cms by 10.16cms. And if you want any it's two pounds a foot!'

'Have you decided what to buy your missus for Christmas?' asked McPhee. 'Sure, she decided it for me,' answered Kelly. 'She said she wanted something with diamonds in it'. So I've bought her a pack of cards!'

The drunk rang Dublin airport and inquired: 'How long does it take to fly to New York from Dublin?' 'Just a second,' said the receptionist. Thank you,' said the drunk and replaced the phone.

'Honestly Father,' said Biddie McGrath. 'Your sermons are a wonder to behold. Sure we didn't know what sin was till you came to the parish!'