

THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



NEWSLETTER April 2017 40th Year of Christchurch Probus

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 40th 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 40th AGM, held on the 7th 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 Probus Club.

Club Rules

Remain unchanged

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

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 2nd Wednesday monthly, and for coffee at the Lord Bute Hotel, Highcliffe on the 4th Wednesday monthly.

Dates for **April** are:

12th – Lunch, venue to be advised

26th – 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) **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

4th April – Kathy McNally - Spying 'The Great Game'

VoT – Tony Garland

Pork & Leek Sausages

Herb Mash Potato, Onion Jus

Quorn & Butternut Squash Lasagne

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

6th 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 21st June
40th Celebration Meal

Carey's Manor Hotel
Brockenhurst

Avril Owton – 'The Show must go on'
VoT – Ken Heap
Full details have been distributed.

4th 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

5th 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 27th September
40th Celebration Meal and Quiz
Christchurch Masonic Centre
Details to be announced

3rd October – John Symonds – 'The wireless in
wartime'
VoT – John Bexon

Beef Bourguignon
Mash Potato

Beetroot & Goats Cheese Risotto

Warm Poached Pear
Vanilla Ice-Cream

7th November – Simon Hayes - 'The role of Police
& Crime Commissioners'
VoT – Geoff Wilson

Herb Crusted Cod Fillet
Crushed New Potatoes, Parsley Velouté

Winter Vegetable Gnocchi

Rhubarb & Apple Crumble
Vanilla Ice-Cream

5th December
East Close Hotel – Speaker TBA

Festive Christmas Lunch Menu

14th 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 5th May**
Full details have been distributed and are on the website
- b) Stanpit Marsh Tour and lunch
Thursday 11th May
Full details have been distributed and are on the website
- c) 40th Celebration Meal, Carey's Manor Hotel, Brockenhurst
Wednesday 21st June
Full details have been distributed and are on the website
- d) 40th Celebration Meal and Quiz, Christchurch Masonic Centre
Wednesday 27th September
Details to be announced.
- e) President's "Weekend Away", Bembridge Coast Hotel, Isle of Wight
Friday 13th 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!'