

THE PROBUS CLUB OF CHRISTCHURCH (FOUNDED 1977)



NEWSLETTER April 2015

President's Remarks

I never thought some months ago that I would be addressing you via this newsletter as your new President. May I first acknowledge the magnanimous and difficult decision taken by Les Denmead to withdraw his nomination, and personally hope that he will feel reinvigorated to stand again sometime.

For my part, it has been an honour to accept this prestigious position, and trust that I will bring a commitment and a vibrancy to maintain a successful future for the Club. In doing this, I am fortunate that most of the committee have willingly agreed to continue and I will greatly value their support during my tenure as President.

We have an excellent Club and it was very gratifying to see so many Full and Associate members with their partners at Don's Presidential luncheon, enjoying themselves with friends old and new.

So, to conclude, I look forward to being your President and I know that the Social Secretaries have worked hard in drawing up an interesting programme of events which may tempt you all to attend!

David Sutcliffe

Annual General Meeting

The 38th AGM, held on the 3rd March 2015 at the East Close Hotel, was attended by 32 members, with 12 apologies for absence.

The new committee for 2015 was elected 'en bloc' as follows :-

Vice President	Graham Newton
Hon. Secretary	Robin Haggatt
Hon. Treasurer	Mike Fay
Programme Secretary	Graham Newton
Dining Secretary	Mike Harrold
Social Secretaries	Colin Dobson Maurice Dowling
Webmaster	Mike Collard
Steward	Tony Garland

Subscriptions and Fees

It was agreed that the joining fee of £15 and the monthly meeting charge of £20 should remain

unchanged, but the annual subscription is being increased from £20 to £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.

Changes to Club Rules

Two changes were agreed to the Rules of the Club: Firstly, recommendations for Life Membership can in future be made at the (monthly) general meetings of the Club, rather than at the Annual General Meeting.

Secondly, the title of Webmaster Liaison Officer has been changed to Webmaster, now that our new website is being conducted 'in house'.

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

As mentioned above, our new website is now 'up and running', very much thanks to the efforts of Mike Collard, and the new website address is 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 'Concorde (the aeroplane)' by Phil Holt, 'A Royal Warden at the Palace' by John Wren, 'Where's my Camera? – there's a Snake in my Soup' by Ian Schulz, and (at the President's lunch) by Martin Stewart with 'The History of Stewarts'.

And then in March, following the AGM, our own member Ken Heap gave us 'A Life in Crime', a vivid account of interesting – sometimes tragic – situations that occurred during his working life. Unfortunately, time ran out before the end, so we are rather hoping to hear 'A Life in Crime **Part 2**' at some point in the future!

Membership

It is with great regret that we have to record the passing in December of **Brian Skelt**, aged 85. Brian had been a member for 19 years, having been introduced into the Club in 1995 by Alan Deakin and David Wilkie – both still regular attendees.

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

Jim Newman found us via our website, and was previously an editor in TV broadcasting. He lives in the relatively new development at Priory Quay, and unsurprisingly therefore lists one of his interests as sailing!

Keith Puttick found us through having been invited as a speaker – for those with failing memories it was ‘Musicals of the 50’s and 60’s’ at our meeting last May. Keith is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Ferndown, and suffers greatly at present from being a supporter of Aston Villa Football Club!

David Poynton is a friend of Keith, and is a Chartered Quantity Surveyor. He lives in Poole, is a keen table tennis player, but is interested in virtually all sports.

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) **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.

Future Speakers and Menus in 2015

7th April – Paul Sturgess – ‘A Ramble round the County’

VoT – Maurice Dowling

Turkey and Chorizo Kiev with Thyme Potato and Red Pepper Salsa

Vanilla Crème Brulee, Fruit Compote & Sable Biscuit

5th May (with our Ladies) – Alan White – ‘My Life as a Poole Potter for the last 48 years’.

VoT – John Prater

Breast of Chicken Forestiere with Dauphinoise Potato

Strawberry Pavlova, Vanilla Ice Cream & Mint Syrup

2nd June – The Lewis Manning Hospice

VoT – Richard Porter

Beer Battered Cod Fillet with Mushy Peas, Fries and Tartare Sauce

Honeycomb Cheesecake, Double Chocolate Ice Cream

7th July – Anthony Holt – ‘Maritime Moments’

VoT – John Prater

Turkey Escallop wrapped with Parma Ham stuffed with Mozzarella, Crushed Potato & Pepper Salsa

Summer Berry Cheesecake

4th August – Nicholas Hawkins – ‘The Russell-Cotes Museum’

VoT – Mike Harrold

Fillet of Cod, Parsley Potato, Bacon & Mussel Broth

Key Lime Meringue Pie, Chocolate Ice Cream

1st September – John Smith – ‘The Battle of Britain over Christchurch’

VoT – Harold Jones

Chicken, Leek & Ham Hock Pie, Sweet Potato Mash

Toffee Apple Crumble, Clotted Ice Cream

6th October – Robin Harley – ‘The Wildlife of Christchurch’

VoT – Graham Newton

Braised Lamb Shoulder, Minted Potato & Honey Glaze

Chocolate & Tiramisu Mousse

3rd November – Jo Bush - ‘Tools for Self Reliance’

VoT – t.b.a.

Fillet of Smoked Haddock, Champ Potato, Rarebit Sauce & Roasted Tomato

1st December (with our Ladies) – Dale Johnson – ‘The ‘Real’ Dad’s Army’

VoT – t.b.a.

Christmas Menu

Volunteers required please by Graham Newton for the votes of thanks for November and December.

For Your Diary:

Sunday 26th April

The lunch at Brockenhurst College, mentioned in our December newsletter, has regrettably been cancelled, as the College have advised us that they are not doing any external catering at present. However, this has been replaced by Sunday lunch at Drusilla’s Inn, near Horton, being organised by Colin Dobson.

Friday 15th May

Visit to Upton House, to include a tour of the House and Gardens, followed by a light buffet lunch, being organised by Maurice Dowling.