



## **Chichester & District Probud Club**

# **MARCH NEWSLETTER**

**To all Members**

### **1 PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS**

Well, we are already in March and on our way to longer days. The difference is already most gratifying.

I am pleased that we have an increase in new member interest and your committee is working on it at the moment.

Our next lunch will be special as we have the honour of hearing Colin Chambers speak of his contact with Nelson Mandela while in prison on Robben Island. He was a naval chaplain at the time. We are very fortunate to be able to hear about that special man.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Howard Boyd

### **2 SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES**

The next Lunch is at 1pm on THURSDAY MARCH 9 and the Speaker is Rev Colin Chambers : Nelson Mandela

The menu for lunch will be Roast Lamb followed by fruit crumble.  
The vegetarian option will be vegetable lasagne with garlic bread.  
( PLEASE ADVISE IF VEG OPTION REQUIRED)

Please let me know of absences ASAP after receipt of the Newsletter. 07855 580609 is best.

Currently, I have Messrs: Bowyer, Bunyan, Campbell-Robson, Dennett , Dean C, Giles, Humphrey, Jeffers, Luffingham ,Major, Moring, Robinson, Shakespeare, and Williams D

RAFFLE : Paparuda Pinot Grigio , Kooliburra Shiraz Cabernet and SA Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot

## **Profile - Colin Chambers**

I was born in England, but grew up in South Africa.

In the course of time I became a career officer in the South African Navy, in various different roles, functions and postings, reaching the rank of Commander. (Well Lieutenant Commander, but that rank is addressed as Commander.)

It was during my time in the Navy that I became a committed Christian, and wanted to transfer to become a Navy Chaplain, but there wasn't a vacancy at the time and I was asked to become a Prison Chaplain at Pollsmoor Prison in Cape Town as well as for the Robben Island Maximum Security Prison.

It was there that I came in contact with Nelson Mandela and other leading African political prisoners.

I returned to live in the UK in the early 2000's and have been active in ministry here to this day, being an itinerant preacher, teacher and speaker, as well as being the volunteer chaplain for Hampshire Homes for Veterans, who have fallen on troubled times, based in Gosport.

## **PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS**

**APRIL 13** Dudley Hooley Esq. – The Red Arrows

### **3 TREASURER'S REPORT**

#### **3.1 Probus Finances**

There is nothing specific to report.

The Finances are in order.

Frank Griffiths

### **4 MEMBERS WELFARE**

Please keep me informed of any health issues and other help you may feel the club can offer you personally. This also applies to any needs of fellow club members you may be aware of.

Please call me on 01243 376170.

David Childs Hopkins

### **5 SOCIAL ITEMS**

**Next Probus visit on Wednesday 15 March 2023 14:00**

Our next visit is to The South Downs Planetarium on Wednesday 15 March 2023 at 14:00 for a 14:30 show on the James Watt Space Telescope with its ability to look 13.6 billion light years distant.

I light year is just under 6.3 trillion miles. Mind boggling.

The address is High School Campus, Sir Patrick Moore Building Kingsham Farm, off Kingsham Rd, Chichester PO19 8EB.

When you enter the School keep the gym on your right hand side.

Parking is provided. The following are signed up so far. Do please join us.

Clive and Jean Thorp

Peter and Norma Heydenrych

Brian and Geraldine French

James Cockburn

Adrian and Jeni Pinel

John and Lynn Hooper

Richard and Sheila Roberts

John and Jane Hartley

Ron and Margaret Williams

Ken Ladd

Jackie Jeffers

Frank and Pat Griffiths

Catherine Oliver

Greta Byers

John Luffingham

David and Barbara Childs Hopkins

Payment £9 per person to include tea/coffee on entry on the day

## **5.1 Walking Group [Motto:mens and womens sana in corpore sono]**

Walk Report by Jim Cockburn

### **Probus February Walk – Prinsted Exploration (106)**

Four members set out from The Travellers Joy in Southbourne to enjoy a stroll along the sea wall at Prinsted past the Marina and Paynes Shipyard to Thornham Point where we turned inland to return via Prinsted to the pub. As the tide was in we saw few sea birds and the only nautical activity observed was a solitary oarsman in a rowing boat. On our return a further three members with their wives/partners joined us for lunch which was enjoyed by all.

It is worth mentioning for the benefit of anyone thinking of eating at The Travellers Joy in future that there are controlled parking signs in the car parks with a £100 penalty for unregistered cars ! The landlord has done this because of antisocial behaviour by some motorists and pub patrons can park without any problem or need to register as incorrect useage is monitored by the landlord himself, not by the parking company through a third party. Is this the start of a trend I wonder.

Walking 4

Lunching 10

Cancelled 6

Dogs 0

Late 0

Distance 2.5 miles. Weather dry and cloudy. The sun didn't appear until we were having lunch – typical.

Due to the absence of our photographer there are no pictures this month.

### **March Probus Walk – Burton Park (107)**

Our next walk will be on Tuesday 28th March from The Cricketers GU28 0LB (Tel: 01798 342473) at Duncton on the A 285 Chichester to Petworth road. The pub will be open from

1000 for us to order food and use toilets, and we should be ready to move off by 10.30.

Lunch will be at 12.30.

As usual members wives and partners are welcome.

The walk of about 2.5 miles is over private roads and open country paths past Duncton Mill and through the grounds of Burton Park. There are no stiles but there is one short but steep uphill section followed by a longer gradual descent immediately after passing Duncton Mill. A change of footwear is recommended as some sections may be muddy in the event of rain in the preceding days.

Health and Safety: Members are responsible for their own well-being.

Emergency phone (on day only) 07955 940521  
Probus January Walk – Lavant Valley Stroll (106)

Health and Safety: Walking at a pace of 3 miles per hour (or a 20 minute-mile) is associated with a lower risk of premature death overall as well as death from specific diseases, including cardiovascular disease, cancer and respiratory disease.

### **5.2 Coffee Morning Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30 am.**

Thursday's Coffee Morning will again be held at **The Boston Tea Party in Baffins Lane** at the bottom on the left hand side.

Baffins Lane is off East St opposite to Ask Italian and Rymans.

The nearest car park is the East Pallant Pay and Display (where you find the Chichester District Council offices.)

Would the first to arrive just tell the staff that you are the first of an indeterminate number so as you grow can they please add a table or two as necessary!

## **6 PROFILES**

### **6.1 Eric Silvester**

Born May 1951 in Beckenham, Kent and lived with my parents in South London. Went to Bromley Technical High School (along with David Bowie). After leaving school I trained in London West End as a telecoms engineer, but in 1969 I switch jobs and joined National Westminster Bank as a computer operator. Stayed with NatWest and then RBS for 41 years in various roles until I retired in 2010.

Nearly 1 year later I went back to work for RBS on the divestment of the DirectLine insurance business, switching employment in 2012 to Direct Line Group, who I remained with as the Mainframe manager until late 2021.

During my time with NatWest I participated in an IBM/Share working party for about 10 years which gave me the chance to travel to various places in the USA, as well as travelling to European cities for other IT meetings and conferences.

While with NatWest I was active in BIFU (the Banking trade union), being at various times; Branch chairman, treasurer and IT lay negotiating officer. Also had a spell as a Director of UKCMG (UK Computer Measurement Group).

Apart from work I was also a disc jockey in central & east London for about 5 years in my spare time in the 70's. Living in and around South London until mid 1980's. Then lived in Bedfordshire before moving back south to West Sussex about 1995.

Married with two lovely daughters.

Interests are computing, technology, science fiction, modelling and motor racing. Just signed on as a race marshal at Goodwood!

### **6.2 Ann Silvester**

Born in Nottingham in 1947 I worked in accounts at an industrial firm locally until I got married and moved to Cheshire.

Over the years I've been lucky to have lived for a while in Canada, Australia and South Africa as well as here in the UK. I returned home to England ten years ago from SA and lived in Epsom initially until moving with my partner to Horsham. Later moved again to the south coast where we live today.

I have worked with special needs adults, the elderly and children at school. Moving on to qualify as a therapist/councillor doing mainly life coaching.

Lucky enough to have three girls, two of which are married and the youngest is getting married in a few months time. Five grand children to date and two cats so plenty to keep me busy!

## **6.3 Kenneth (Ken) Ladd**

Born 1929 and became a child of the “blitz) living in London through conventional bombing,” doodlebugs” V 1 flying bombs, 2 rockets. Family house damaged three times.

Schooling cut short by enemy action left school prematurely.

Spent short period as a Junior Clerk in local municipal treasury.

Joined RAF as trainee navigator but became a fighter controller. Experienced Cold War and Berlin Wall crisis.

Returned to civilian occupation but resigned to join Johnson Group as a trainee manager.

Appointed to management position and rose through various appointments to Managing Director

Appointed Sales and Marketing Director to Coats Patons, becoming Managing Director.

Joined Great Universal Stores (GUS) as Managing Director of Witney Blanket Company

Joined Woolworth as head of a rescue division

In 1981 formed a company to manage brand development and diversification, a company now managed by my son.

All appointments entailed extensive world travel

Accepted short term Chairmanships followed by retirement to pursue non commercial travel and exploration. Travel in Himalayas and Arctic

Accepted Fellowships in Institute of Directors, Royal Geographical Society and Royal Society of Arts.

## **7. HUMOUR**

### **7.1 From my Canadian Friend**

The local news station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just married for the fourth time.

The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at 80, and then about her new husband's occupation.. "He's a funeral director," she answered. "Interesting," the newsman thought...

He then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on all those years. After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had first married a banker when she was in her 20's, then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's, and a preacher when in her 60's, and now - in her 80's - a funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers.

(Wait for it)

She smiled and explained, "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."

(Oh, just hush-up and send me a good one for a laugh.)

PJH 03.02.2023