



Chichester & District Probud Club

APRIL NEWSLETTER

To all Members

1 PRESIDENT'S RAMBLINGS

April is upon us but we still, unfortunately, have wintry weather conditions. Roll on sunny days!

Our last lunch featuring Nelson Mandela was a great success and will be remembered for some time by many.

This month we will enjoy a talk by Dr Ian Goodall on the fascinating subject of DNA Fingerprinting which I feel sure we will enjoy.

We will also be inducting a number of new members, including several ladies. Great news for the future of our Probud Club.

The committee is to announce that Clive Thorp will be retiring from the committee after several years of excellent service.

We will need a replacement to take the Social Coordinator position. This involves trips, visits, occasions and Press officer. Clive will be happy to provide guidance on the press contact role.

Howard Boyd

2 SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES

The next Lunch is at 1pm on THURSDAY APRIL 13 and the Speaker is Dr Ian Goodall on 'DNA Fingerprinting '

The menu for lunch will be Roast Pork followed by Bread and Butter Pudding.
(PLEASE ADVISE IF VEG OPTION REQUIRED - stuffed Aubergine with Savoury Rice served with Roast Sweet Pepper Coulis and Sauteed New Potatoes)

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

Currently, I have Messrs: Andrews, Bunyan, Cockburn, Dean C, French, Giles, Griffiths, Humphrey, Luffingham, Major, Reynolds, Robinson, Thornley and Waters.

RAFFLE : Papparuda Pinot Grigio , Nero d'Avila, Sicilia Piccodoro and (Spring having Sprung) Monastrell Rose

To be sold by David Childs Hopkins and Peter Boulton. Thanks to them.

2.1 A County Celebrates: Coronations Past and Present - 18 April 2023

I wonder if you would be willing to circulate details, to your members or anyone else who might be interested, of a **free** online talk, organised by West Sussex Record Office and Screen Archive South East, to celebrate the Coronation.

The full details can be found on West Sussex Record Office's "What's On" page: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/history-and-heritage/west-sussex-record-office/whats-on-at-the-record-office/>

The event is being held online only and tickets are available on Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/580344785877>

Best wishes

Matthew

Matthew Jones

Assistant County Archivist (Head of Public Access)

West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester PO19 1DD

Phone: +44 (0)33 022 24585

E-mail: matthew.t.jones@westsussex.gov.uk | Website: www.westsussex.gov.uk/ro

2.3 Our March Talk by Colin Chambers on Nelson Mandela



Among the first words used by Nelson Mandela to greet Colin Chambers, newly appointed Prison Chaplain for Pollsmoor Prison and Robben Island Maximum-Security Prison after "and how was your trip?" – Robben Island Maximum-Security Prison being 25 a minute ferry ride from Cape Town on the mainland - were "*how's your father?*" Colin, who was puzzled by this question, Mandela having previously had no knowledge of him, explained that for the Methodist educated Mandela this was a term he customarily used to extend the hand of friendship. Thus it was that of the four or five other "terrorists" present in the room at the time Nelson Mandela, the charismatic and obvious leader, immediately put Colin, a former Lieutenant Commander in the South African Navy before taking Holy Orders (and as such hardly likely to endear himself to his new parishioners) entirely at his ease.

And that was the thrust of Colin's talk to the Probus Club of Chichester on 9 March 2023 - the complete absence of bitterness in Nelson Mandela's dealings with all those with whom he came into contact during his 27 year incarceration, commencing in 1962 following the Rivonia Trial and afterwards on his release in 1990, through to his Presidency following the 1994 Multiracial General Election where he led the ANC to victory, leading a broad coalition government and thereafter to his death aged 95 in December 2013.

Collin's talk touched on his recollection of those prison days, an account of the factors leading to Mandela's imprisonment, brief details of prison life, photographs of the tiny cell in which Mandela and his co-conspirators were held as well as of the prison generally, an account of the history of South Africa and then of the apartheid regime whereby "non whites" were rigorously segregated (to include a photograph of the steps over a railway station bridge divided into two sections to prevent mingling) to Mandela's many achievements, all of which are now well documented. Colin also explained how, had it not been for President FW De Klerk (who shared with Mandela the Nobel Peace Prize) South Africa would likely have dissolved into civil war.

Mandela treated all those with whom he came into contact in exactly the same way calling our late Queen Elizabeth "Liz or Lizzie", putting his arms around her (in breach of Royal protocol, not that the Queen minded) and on one subsequent meeting *saying* "Wonderful to see you've put on a bit of weight." Never one to complain or harbour bitterness the only time Colin heard Nelson Mandela utter the slightest hint of regret over his treatment was to mention that his eyes found it difficult to cope with bright sunlight - the result of hours in the glaring sun breaking up pieces of white limestone with which the prison authorities could edge their drives, as part of his punishment.

2.4 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS

APRIL 13 Dudley Hooley is unwell you will be sad to hear so the Lunch Talk will be;

DNA Fingerprinting delivered by Dr Ian Goodall

3 TREASURER'S REPORT

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



March visit to The South Downs Planetarium

Next Probus visit on Wednesday 30th April 2023 15:30

Our next visit is to The South Downs Planetarium for a show on the James Watt Space for those who attended the previous visit in March.

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.

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We will need a replacement to take the Social Coordinator position. This involves trips, visits, occasions and Press officer. Clive will be happy to provide guidance on the press contact role.

Please advise Howard Boyd if you would be able to take over this very important position.

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

Walk Report by Jim Cockburn

Probus March Walk – Burton Park (108)

A number of our regular walkers and lunchers decided to have early Easter holidays so only one other walker and another lunching couple said they would be joining me at The Cricketers. In the event the walker cancelled due to illness and the lunching couple decided not to come so your Walks Co-ordinator had to do the walk on his own.

Walking 1

Lunching 1

Cancelled 3

Dogs 0

Late 0

Distance 2.5 miles. Weather steady light rain until having lunch in the Pub so full wet weather gear was worn. Your Leader cannot remember when he last had to do this – it was before Covid – so he has been either very lucky or did not do walks on wet days. The route began with the descent to Duncton Mill Pond and Trout Fishery. The fishery has recently changed hands and the ponds have been renovated to provide the commercial fishery and sport for leisure fly fishers. There is also now a public loo available to passing walkers.

A short but steep ascent and longer gentle descent then led to the path past Burton Park House which is now converted to individual apartments. Immediately next to the house is Burton Church which is one of the smallest churches in Sussex. The usual route home from this point is usually via the path leading to the Burton House drive but a recent recce showed that this was very waterlogged so the longer route past the croquet field and Catholic Church was followed instead which also allowed a visit to the parish church of The Holy Trinity which lies just off the main road.

The walk was followed by an enjoyable lunch of baked Duncton trout.

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

April Probus Walk – Watergate Hanger (109)

Our next walk will be on Wednesday 26th April from The Barley Mow in Walderton PO18 9ED Phone 02392 631324. The pub will be open from 1000 for us to order food and use the toilets, and we should be ready to move off by 10.30.

Lunch will be at 1230.

As usual members' wives and partners are welcome.

The walk of about 2.5 miles is over fields and country paths along Watergate Hanger and back down Woodlands Lane past Walderton Corner. There are no stiles and a change of footwear is recommended as some sections may be muddy in the event of rain in the preceding days. This is a different walk to that led by Jim Oliver in June last year.

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

Emergency phone (on day only) 07955

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, 6th 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 Martin Reynolds

Martin Reynolds was born November 1952 in North London and went to Hendon County Grammar School with the now Lord Peter Mandleson. He joined The National Youth orchestra in 1963 as a brass musician also attending Guildhall school of music and Drama in London. He attended Glasgow Caledonian University in 1972 studying BSc in Optometry qualifying as an Optometrist.

Opened Martin Reynolds Opticians in 1984 in Bishops Stortford, followed by Great Dunmow and London for 25 years and became a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers in 1998 and granted The Freedom of the City of London.

He retired to Chichester in 2008 living in Central Chichester where I sing with the chamber choir The Chichester Singers at the Cathedral concerts every quarter. Play bridge regularly at the 101 club Chichester. Played tuba for 2 years with the Chichester Symphony Orchestra and started to learn to play golf at Goodwood Golf Club 5 years ago . Married very happily to my wife Susan, coming up to our 40th wedding anniversary.

6.2 Jackie Jeffers

Jackie Jeffers was born 1945 in Radcliffe Manchester, primary school in Chichester, then settled in Littlehampton, going to Sion school in Worthing, after which studied Librarianship in Brighton, specialising in children's literature. Worked in two secondary schools in Bognor Regis overseeing the reorganisation of their libraries in the run up to their becoming comprehensives.

Married teenage sweetheart Tom and had three children, eventually living at Christ's Hospital school Horsham for 32 years until our retirement in 2004 to Rustington.

Managed the school library for 20 years as well as becoming a scout leader and finding myself on various committees.

My interests are reading of course, also painting, astronomy, gardening, walking on the Downs and winter swimming.

6.3 Chris Fuller

Born in 1947 in the London Hospital, Whitechapel, I went to grammar school in Battersea,

SW London. I then studied at City University, London and received an honours degree in Civil Engineering.

I joined a major international construction company in the 60s and worked on major infrastructure projects. These included road, motorways, railways, bridges, sea defences and harbour works. I joined the company as a graduate and finished as a senior manager on UK works. When I completed my indenture period I became a Chartered Engineer and a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers. I also carried out design work on secondment to a firm of consulting engineers, designing infrastructure and leisure facilities at hotels in Kampala and the Seychelles.

In 1976, along with two other engineers, I founded a design and construction company and carried out project in the SE of England. I was the technical director designing foundations and structures of industrial complexes and housing projects.

I was remarried in 1983 to Eve and have a stepson and daughter and four granddaughters. We lived in Shortlands, SE London and in 1986 I was elected to membership of the Langley Park Rotary Club in Beckenham.

In 1986, my career changed direction, when I joined a local authority in Kent as senior civil engineer. Work included design and supervision of car parking and also leisure facilities construction. I was also principal engineer supervising design solutions for environmental sewage problems liaising with both Thames and Southern Water companies.

In 1996, my wife and I moved to Northumberland, Eve as editor of the local newspaper. I was part of a lecturing team covering Health and Safety and Construction Management at Newcastle colleges and Sunderland university. Eve was invited to join the local Rotary club as the first female member and I was also president of Tynedale Rotary 1999/2000 (the Millennium bug!)

The year 2006 and retirement beckoned and we came south to be nearer our families and moved in to Emsworth, both transferring into the Havant Rotary club.

A busy retirement involves voluntary work. We both were awarded Paul Harris Fellowships for our work and service in Rotary. I edit copy for the Havant Borough Talking News for the blind. I was also clerk to the governors of our local church primary school. I am a committee member (i/c environmental issues) of the Emsworth Residents' Forum. We enjoy spare time with the local U3A and also spending time with our families in London, Kent, Cornwall and France.

Sport for both of us now is, apart from watching, playing Petanque on Hayling Island and regular croquet games at the Chichester and Fishbourne Croquet.

6.4 Eve Fuller

Deadlines: I thought I'd seen the last of them when I retired in 2006. But no, life's full of them: places to go, people to see, a piece to write for Probus ...

I followed in the footsteps of my journalist father. Before the war he was apprenticed to the Hants and Sussex County Press in Emsworth, later becoming the editor. After the war he joined provincial dailies, eventually working in Fleet Street.

I was a war baby born in the Lake District. I spent most of my childhood in Bromley. On leaving school, I trained as a journalist with the Croydon Advertiser Group. Over the next 10 years I completed my apprenticeship, was married, and became a single mum of three children under six. Fate intervened as I considered shelf-filling at Sainsbury's.

My former boss rang to ask me to come back to work.

During the next 10 years, with the support of my wonderful ex-in-laws, I was a part-time reporter, a sub-editor, editor of one of the group's free newspapers, and group editor of the free papers. At that time we made the transition from hot-metal to computers.

Chris and I had met and eventually married in 1983. He was brave enough to take on me and my children and I was brave enough to take on his mother and red setter. My next job was Managing Editor of Sevenoaks Chronicle, then a paid-for broadsheet, which I was to see through the changeover to digital production.

Eight years on, we decided to move to Northumberland. Chris became a university lecturer and put a great deal of time into renovating our gorgeous stone-built Edwardian home overlooking the South Tyne Valley; and I became Editor of the Hexham Courant, another broadsheet serving a very rural population, and later appointed an executive director.

Sadly, during the next ten years, it was an area that suffered hugely during the foot and mouth epidemic and, although we won a prestigious award for our coverage, it was desperate to see farmers cry at having their calves slaughtered before they were even tagged, and piles of stock burning next to the primary school.

However, it was wonderful to be back with truly local news gathering, attending every local council committee meeting, covering court daily, health authority meetings, and regular police and ambulance checks. It was great too to win the North East Weekly Newspaper of the Year award.

I was Tynedale's first female Rotarian in 1996, proposed by a member who had previously opposed women in Rotary. I transferred to the Havant club when we moved back South on retirement in 2006. I became a Paul Harris Fellow in 2014 having edited the Rotary Wessex magazine for three years.

Other activities have included being a primary school governor for five years and a volunteer reader there; and a member of Havant Indoor Bowls Club. At present, I am a Havant Talking Newspaper scriptwriter and a member of Ems Valley U3A and Chichester and Fishbourne Croquet Club.

7. HUMOUR

7.1 From David Childs Hopkins

Thought you gardeners would enjoy this conversation between God and St. Francis.

GOD:

Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, milkweeds and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colours by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

St. FRANCIS:

It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD:

Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colourful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and earthworms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilising grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD:

The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really quickly. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

ST. FRANCIS:

Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it – sometimes twice a week.

GOD:

They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

ST. FRANCIS:

Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD:

They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

ST. FRANCIS:

No, Lord, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD:

Now, let me get this straight. They fertilise grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

ST. FRANCIS:

Yes, Lord.

GOD:

These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

ST. FRANCIS:

You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so quickly, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD:

What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

ST. FRANCIS:

You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD:

No! What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

ST. FRANCIS:

After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD:

And where do they get this mulch?

ST. FRANCIS:

They cut down trees and grind them up to make the mulch.

GOD:

Enough! I don't want to think about this anymore. St. Catherine, you're in charge of the arts. What movie have you scheduled for us tonight?

ST. CATHERINE:

'Dumb and Dumber', Lord. It's a story about...

GOD:

Never mind. I think I just heard the whole story from St. Francis.

7.2 From my Cape Town contact

For English Language Lovers

What is the difference between 'Complete' and 'Finished'?

But in a linguistic conference in England, Sun Sherman an Indian American, was the clever winner.

His response: When you marry the right woman, you are 'Complete'.

If you marry the wrong woman, you are 'Finished'

And when the right woman catches you with the wrong woman, you are 'Completely Finished'.

His answer received a five minute standing ovation.

PJH 03.04.2023