



Chichester & District Probud Club

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

To all Members

1 PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Our Christmas lunch will be our third at Crouchers and hearty thanks to Frank for organising the tables and above all for his customary Christmas Quiz which, if in the usual format, do not suppose that any subject on which you might earn bonus points will bear any resemblance whatsoever to the headings!

I hope that you will find this lunch worthwhile to meet up with old friends and to engage with new members. The coffee mornings and walks which hitherto had been useful vehicles for this have shown declining numbers and any new proposals for injecting more bonhomie into the Club is gratefully received by the Committee.

As you will read below the Committee's strength has been bolstered and is in good heart.

Thanks to our trips' organiser, Brian. The CFT trip this month gave a fascinating insight into the workings of the theatre and I for one will not complain about high seat prices - especially compared to the West End.

It only remains for me to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to hope that you will continue to support the Committee throughout 2024.

Clive Thorp

2. SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES (with Speakers' Corner!)

Colin Calcutt has regrettably resigned citing busyness.

Dennis Brady has very kindly taken over the running of the Electronic Pocketbook.

Eve Fuller has very kindly taken on the role of Press Officer and will join the Committee

together with husband Chris who has very kindly offered to become Assistant Secretary!!

Thanks to Frank Griffiths for all his efforts towards the Christmas Lunch on 14th December.

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS 2024

JANUARY 11 Jeremy Prescott Britain's Secret War: Dhofar, Oman

FEBRUARY 8 Frank Pattison - The Many Faces of Berlin

MARCH 14 Bill Avenell – Weather

APRIL 11 Jay Woogara "From Sugarcane to Surrey"- The Indian Diaspora

John Hargreaves

3 TREASURER'S REPORT

There is nothing specific to report at this stage.
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

5.1 The CFT trip



5.2 Coffee Morning Thursday, 7th December 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!

5.3 The Christmas Walk

The Christmas Walk round the Chichester Walls followed by lunch at Cote Brasserie will take place on Tuesday 19th December starting at 10.30.

Please contact Frank Griffiths as soon as possible if you want to walk or have lunch.

5.4 John Metcalfe profile

I was born in Edinburgh in 1948 and received all my education – primary secondary and higher – in Scotland. At school I discovered an aptitude for foreign languages which took me on to University.

I emerged from university fluent in French German and Russian but with no idea what to do, so at 25 fell into employment as a linguist at GCHQ in London..

Young people now say life is hard, but two thirds of my salary went on flat share, transport, food, and the one third left did not pay for much in 1970s London.

After 18 months I decided I did not want to be a Government servant but to try the business world, and got a job at an international City insurance broker which hired me for my languages.

After a time on the German account, big company logic transferred me to the more volatile Middle East account, where my languages counted for nothing, but I got rapid promotion for work on the Iranian and Iraqi accounts.

I moved companies, as one does, and travelled virtually every continent. Latterly, when the Wall came down, I dealt extensively with Russian and Ukrainian companies until retiring in 2016.

All of this gave me insight into the mentality of a lot of different cultures, and the meaning of courage, friendship and loyalty in business.

I also learned that 99.9% of people in “corrupt” countries try to live honest lives, frustrated only by the so called elites set over them. We are fortunate in this country to be free of routine corruption.

6. HUMOUR

6.1 From my friend in Jo'burg

Four friends, who hadn't seen each other in 30 years, reunited at a party

After several drinks, one of the men had to use the rest room.

Those who remained talked about their kids.

The first guy said, 'My son is my pride and joy. He started working at a successful company at the bottom of the barrel. He studied Economics and Business Administration and soon began to climb the corporate ladder and now he's the president of the company. He became so rich that he gave his best friend a top of the line Mercedes for his birthday.'

The second guy said, 'Darn, that's terrific! My son is also my pride and joy. He started working for a big airline, and then went to flight school to become a pilot. Eventually he became a partner in the company, where he owns the majority of its assets He's so rich that he gave his best friend a brand new jet for his birthday.'

The third man said: 'Well, that's terrific! My son studied in the best universities and became an engineer. Then he started his own construction company and is now a multimillionaire.. He also gave away something very nice and expensive to his best friend for his birthday: A 30,000 square foot mansion.'

The three friends congratulated each other just as the fourth returned from the restroom and asked: 'What are all the congratulations for?'

One of the three said: 'We were talking about the pride we feel for the successes of our sons. ..What about your son?'

The fourth man replied: 'My son is gay and makes a living dancing as a stripper at a nightclub.'

The three friends said: 'What a shame... what a disappointment.'

The fourth man replied: 'No, I'm not ashamed. He's my son and I love him. And he hasn't done too badly either. His birthday was two weeks ago, and he received a beautiful 30,000 square foot mansion, a brand new jet and a top of the line Mercedes from his three boyfriends.'

6.2 From my Cape Town friend

Insurance claims:

An invisible car came out of nowhere, struck my car and vanished.

Car had to turn sharper than was necessary owing to an invisible lorry.

Cow wandered into my car. I was afterwards informed that the cow was half-witted.

First car stopped suddenly, second car hit first car and a haggis ran into the rear of second car.

I am responsible for the accident as I was miles away at the time.

I blew my horn but it would not work as it was stolen.

I bumped into a lamp-post which was obscured by human beings.

I bumped into a shop window and sustained injuries to my wife.

I can't give details of the accident as I was somewhat concussed at the time.

I collided with a stationary tramcar coming the other way.

I consider that neither vehicle was to blame but if either were to blame it was the other one.

I didn't think the speed limit applied after midnight.

I had been driving for 40 years when I fell asleep at the wheel and had an accident.

I had one eye on a parked car, another on approaching lorries, and another on the woman behind.

I heard a horn blow and was struck violently in the back. Evidently a lady was trying to pass me.

PJH 06.12.2023