



## **Chichester & District Probus Club**

# **NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER**

**To all Members**

### **1 PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS**

President's Greetings.

I hope that all who attended Crouchers last month enjoyed the meal as much as I did. The Committee is meeting before our November lunch and will announce then the implications on the Club's finances of the closure of the Park Hotel.

The menu is roast topside of Sussex beef (with the usual vegetarian option) followed by vanilla crème brulee (and cheese for those who have pre-ordered it).

The importance of pre-ordering and giving John exact numbers is now of even more importance than it was at the Park Hotel.

Do please also be sure to sign the current attendance sheet at the raffle table when you check-in as well as the one for the following month giving absentees.

The talk at lunch is on the War Graves Commission and we have two guests: William Baillieu and John Spence.

Let us hope by then that the current rain will have abated. Summer is becoming a distant memory.

### **HOWARD BOYD**

**We were very sad to hear that our Past President Howard Boyd had passed away. Howard's daughter informed John Hargreaves this morning.**

### **2. SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES (with Speakers' Corner!)**

Eric and Ann Silvester have had to relocate and so have withdrawn from the Club. We wish them well for their future.

Similarly, Martin Reynolds.

Donald Robinson and John Humphrey have withdrawn on health grounds. We wish them well.

The next Lunch is on November 9

As you will know (and please spread the word) it is at CROUCHERS, Birdham Road.

I need to give them EXACT numbers by November 4 so please look and advise asap if you are an absentee. Absentees so far are: Messrs BOYD, BUNYAN, CALCUTT, COCKBURN, DEAN, GILES, HARTLEY, LUFFINGHAM

The menu is Topside of beef and Crème brulee with a veg option of Blue Cheese Risotto.

SHOULD YOU WISH FOR THE VEG OPTION AND/OR CHEESE INSTEAD OF DESSERT, PLEASE LET ME KNOW ASAP

PLEASE SIGN IN ON ARRIVAL AND INDICATE ANY FUTURE ABSENCE

**RAFFLE:** We have Dennis Brady and Ian Campbell to tickle your tastebuds with a trio of tipples. (Pinot Grigio, Cotes du Rhone and a Rose)  
Thanks to them.

## **PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS 2023 and 2024**

**NOVEMBER 9** The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

JANUARY 11 Jeremy Prescott TBA

FEBRUARY 8 Frank Pattison - 'Father Rhine '

MARCH 14 Bill Avenell – Geography Concentration OR Weather

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

JUNE 13 John Hartley TBA

JULY 18 **THIRD THURSDAY** (avoiding Festival of Speed)  
David Bickerton 'Parents at War'

AUGUST 8 Richard Campbell-Robson SSAFA and recollections being a caseworker.

SEPTEMBER 12 Nigel Gossop – ' Once Upon a Time '

OCTOBER 10 David Thornley, Deputy Director, Outreach for Bognor & Chichester Samaritans. “Learning to Listen”

NOVEMBER 14 Ian Everest - Cinderellas of the Fields – The Women's Land Army

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

October Walk – Glasshouse Discovery (115)

The planned walk would have gone south from the Holly Tree at Walberton across fields and around a cluster of horticultural greenhouses belonging to the Farplants Group. This is a co-operative of four West Sussex growers and is the largest UK supplier of outdoor plants to UK garden centres. From small beginnings in 1972, the group now grows over 11 million plants a year on 70 hectares (170 acres) of covered and outdoor production units. They grow over 2000 different varieties and employ up to 500 staff during the peak gardening period through the spring and early summer.

A recce a few days earlier showed the going to be very soft, slippery and treacherous, not surprising in view of the current heavy rain. Only two ladies wanted to join your Walk Co-ordinator with no one wanting just to come later or lunch so after speaking to the ladies concerned an executive decision was made to cancel the walk. There is therefore no walk report for October. There will be no walk for November either as your Walk Co-ordinator has a prior engagement that day – Friday 26th November. He will also be away on the high seas for much of December and will be missing his usual multiple Christmas lunches including the Probus Walk and Lunch. Be assured that this will occur as usual and be arranged and led by Frank Griffiths. Further details will be published in the Newsletter in due course.

Jim Cockburn

#### **5.2 Coffee Morning Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 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. HUMOUR**

### **6.1 From David Childs Hopkins**

A drunk is stumbling through the woods when he comes upon a preacher baptizing people in the river. He proceeds into the water bumping into the preacher. The preacher turns around and is almost overcome by the smell of alcohol, whereupon, he asks the drunk, "Are you ready to find Jesus?" The drunk shouts, "Yes, I am."

So the preacher grabs him and dunks him in the water. He pulls him back and asks, "Brother, have you found Jesus?" The drunk replies, "No, I haven't found Jesus!" The preacher, shocked at the answer, dunks him again but for a little longer. He again pulls him out of the water and asks, "Have you found Jesus, brother?" The drunk answers, "No, I haven't found Jesus!"

By this time, the preacher is at his wits end and dunks the drunk again, but this time holds him down for about 30 seconds, and when he begins kicking his arms and legs about, he pulls him up.

The preacher again asks the drunk, "For the love of God, have you found Jesus?" The drunk staggers upright, wipes his eyes, coughs up a bit of water, catches his breath, and says to the preacher, "Are you sure this is where he fell in?"

### **6.2 From my Cape Town friend**

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#### **Attorney and client**

The following are from a book titled Disorder in the Courts and are things people said in court, word for word, taken down and published by court reporters:

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan.

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of the impact?

WITNESS: Gucci sweats and Reeboks.

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ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there.

ATTORNEY: What is your date of birth?

WITNESS: July 18th.

ATTORNEY: What year?

WITNESS: Every year.

ATTORNEY: How old is your son, the one living with you?

WITNESS: Thirty-eight or thirty-five, I can't remember which.

ATTORNEY: How long has he lived with you?

WITNESS: Forty-five years.

ATTORNEY: This myasthenia gravis, does it affect your memory at all?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And in what ways does it affect your memory?

WITNESS: I forget.

ATTORNEY: You forget? Can you give us an example of something you forgot?

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn't it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

ATTORNEY: The youngest son, the 20-year-old, how old is he?

WITNESS: He's 20, much like your IQ.

ATTORNEY: So, the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: And what were you doing at that time?

WITNESS: Getting laid.

ATTORNEY: She had three children, right?

WITNESS: Yes.

ATTORNEY: How many were boys?

WITNESS: None.

ATTORNEY: Were there any girls?

WITNESS: Your Honour, I think I need a different attorney. Can I get a new attorney?

ATTORNEY: How was your first marriage terminated?

WITNESS: By death.

ATTORNEY: And by whose death was it terminated?

WITNESS: Take a guess.

ATTORNEY: Can you describe the individual?

WITNESS: He was about medium height and had a beard.

ATTORNEY: Was this a male or a female?

WITNESS: Unless the circus was in town, I'm going with male.

ATTORNEY: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

WITNESS: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

ATTORNEY: Doctor, how many of your autopsies have you performed on dead people?

WITNESS: All of them. The live ones put up too much of a fight.

ATTORNEY: All your responses must be oral, OK? What school did you go to?

WITNESS: Oral.

ATTORNEY: Do you recall the time that you examined the body?

WITNESS: The autopsy started around 8.30pm.

ATTORNEY: And Mr. Denton was dead at the time?

WITNESS: If not, he was by the time I finished.

ATTORNEY: Are you qualified to give a urine sample?

WITNESS: Are you qualified to ask that question?

ATTORNEY: Doctor, before you performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for blood pressure?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: Did you check for breathing?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: So, then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

WITNESS: No.

ATTORNEY: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

WITNESS: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

ATTORNEY: I see, but could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

WITNESS: Yes, it is possible that he could have been alive and practising law.

PJH 01.11.2023