



Chichester & District Probus Club

JUNE NEWSLETTER

To all Members

1 PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Chichester and Probus Club Annual General Meeting Thursday, 13 June 2024 .

President's report.

What should have proved an uneventful year and a quiet one, for your President is not a Committee Member, was upset by a telephone call from Steph at the Park Hotel taken in St Ives Tesco's car park on or around Tuesday 19 September to the effect that Probus could no longer be welcomed by them, the hotel being used for asylum seekers with effect from the following week.

That led to a flurry of activity with much consultation and meetings and visits to our present venue at Crouchers Hotel. Fortunately the inconvenience and above all the extra cost of meals did not dent our membership too badly but our numbers are down to 41, a far cry from the 55 or so achieved just before the Covid Pandemic. The figure this time last year was 49.

You will have noted from item 3 of the agenda that the roles of President, Vice President Welfare Officer, Walks Coordinator and Speakers' Program coordinator have yet to be filled.

That is unprecedented, certainly in the last decade during which I have been a Club Member.

You as Members will have to decide how future meetings are to be conducted.

You will have seen from the Treasurers report that the Committee has decided that lunches starting in July will be on an opt in basis. If you wish to attend you pay your non-refundable £10 directly to the Probus Bank Account Sort Code 20 – 20 – 65 Account Number 30205060 on or before the Friday preceding that Thursday lunch. My thanks to Chris for wielding the card machine so gleefully. Alas, under the new system his role becomes redundant.

My task this year has been made immeasurably lighter through the sterling work of John Hargreaves. Apart from choosing the menu (the President's perk!) John has ably organised my lunchtime companions, to include the Speaker, prospective New Members and the two rafflers, leaving me to bang the gavel and whiz through Frank's crib list which I kept from my last stint as President. The list is available to whoever hosts forthcoming lunches.

I should like to thank all the Committee. We are losing our Welfare Officer, David Childs Hopkins whose dedication and quiet industry will be very much missed. Our Press Officer, Eve holds a 100% record for ensuring we are in the Chichester Observer each and every month. The trips I have been on organised by Brian have been thoroughly enjoyable.

Frank, as always, is a tower of strength. Peter's editorship of the newsletter never fails and we are, as a Club, well informed. And on the subject of information my thanks to David Thornley for our website and to Dennis Brady for keeping our list of members with their photographs up to date. Lastly, my thanks to Dexter for hosting the May lunch at which I was not present and for agreeing to host this June lunch. Who hosts July's lunch is a matter for you all.

2. SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES

We currently have 41 members

The AGM will take place at CROUCHERS at 11.15 am on Thursday, JUNE 13. Past minutes, the agenda and accounts have been sent in advance. I have been advised of three members who will attend. I need to know numbers.

LUNCH:

Our speaker is Father Peter Bustin – An ART Lecture :
"The wife in Art....not all it seems !!"

Sea Bass, and Baked Apple Tart with a Blue Risotto Cheese vegetarian option

Please advise me asap on receipt of the Newsletter (07855 580609) of any veg options and ABSENCES.

My current list of names of absentees reads BOULTON BYERS CAMPBELL
CURRELL DEVLIN DUARTE GRIFFITHS HARTLEY METCALFE THORNLEY

Chris Fuller will be collecting your £10 on the day via the Griffiths Gizmo. Thanks,
Chris.

RAFFLE: Thanks to John Spence and Brian Wright for offering up a rattling good Red, a rosy Rose and a Romanian Pinot Grigio

PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS 2024

JULY 18 THIRD THURSDAY (avoiding Festival of Speed)

David Bickerton - 'Parents at War'

AUGUST 8 Richard Campbell-Robson: SSAFA and recollections of 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"

PROBUS SPEAKERS 2025

January 9 Martin Radford Bert Hinkler, Southampton's forgotten Aviation Pioneer

February 13 Ian Worley – Whitbread Round the World Race 1977-78

March 14 Kerry Jackson RSPB – BIRDS

April 10 Rob Goldsmith – From the TITANIC to you

MAY 8 TBA / TBC

June 12 Frank Pattison – Germany Greets You

July 10 Peter Varnish OBE – Cyber Security OR AI

August 14 Judith Darley – Chichester Oyster Boats

3 TREASURER’S REPORT

The Treasurer’s report has been circulated already

4 MEMBERS WELFARE

The Welfare Officer, David Childs Hopkins will be standing down and a new member will be required.

5 PRESS REPORT

Minister for Education Gillian Keegan speaks to the club

Never underestimate the power of randomness was the message when Education Minister Gillian Keegan spoke to Chichester Probus Club at their summer ladies’ lunch at Crouchers.

The Chichester MP said that a random remark while at a meeting was the catalyst of her mid-life entry to the world of politics.

Ms Keegan was speaking about her life leading up to her change of career.

She said that, as a Liverpool lass, who attended local comprehensive, she grew up not knowing what a Conservative was. She had to leave school at 16 with her 10 GCSEs because there was nowhere around to take A-levels.

However, she did manage to win an apprenticeship at the local General Motors electronics factory, the reason she was so keen now on the introduction of many more apprenticeships. While there she also took a BA in Business Studies.

She went on to join NatWest as a senior technology buyer, a job which took her to London and Tokyo, banking cash and trying to introduce chip and pin. Her next job was in Madrid working in the tech department of a large travel company for eight years.

Ms Keegan went on to say that she had been enjoying life having been successful from the age of 16. It was time for a second career.

Then came the random remark, “Have you thought about going into politics?” which set her new course. She was introduced to the organisation Women to Win which was co-founded by Theresa May to encourage more women to enter politics.

Her first step was becoming a member of Chichester District Council in 2014. Then she stood as a Tory for an unwinnable parliamentary seat in her Northern home constituency.

She stood for the Chichester seat in 2017, winning with a majority of over 20,000. She quickly rose through the ranks to become Minister of Education.

She told the club she was particularly pleased with the massive progress in Maths teaching in England and the huge growth in the number of apprenticeships. Now 70 per cent of careers could be accessed through them – all built in the past 10 years.

Questioned on the On-line Safety Bill, Ms Keegan said it was a difficult balance. “It doesn’t go far enough but you can’t push it underground.”

On-line social activity was good for adults to keep in touch with family and friends but tricky when used by children and young people.

Bullying had always been part of childhood but it used to be visible on the playground, not hiding behind a phone.

Eve Fuller
Press Officer

6 SOCIAL ITEMS

6.1 Coffee Morning Thursday, 6th June 10:30 am.

Thursday's Coffee Morning was again held at **The Boston Tea Party in Baffins Lane.**

6.2 Probus Walks Report

After taking over Jim Oliver’s role as walk leader in Jan 2023 I continued to organise and lead monthly walks. Those after last year’s AGM are listed below. In each case the number of walkers includes the leader.

June	Old House at Home Chidham	5 walkers plus another 10 just lunching
July	The Unicorn Heyshott	8 walking plus another 5 just lunching
Aug	The Spur Slindon	5 walking
Sept	The Pavilion Stansted	3 walking
Oct	The Holly Tree Walberton	Would have been 3 walking but cancelled by mud
Nov	No walk arranged as I was away.	

Dec The Chichester Walls Walk and associated Christmas Lunch was organised by our treasurer. I decided to resign as walk leader on grounds of age (89) and the low numbers now wanting to walk. It requires considerable time and effort to find and check out a suitable route and find a pub with an acceptable menu and suitable parking. The last six months have also been excessively wet and muddy. Based on my own experience many of our former routes across open country would not have been practicable. Even now at the beginning of June there is still an awful lot of very heavy mud in places which normally by now would have dried up.

Jim Cockburn

6.3 Social Visits

Unfortunately the visit to the Pallant Gallery did not take place as there were not enough members for a reduced cost visit

Brian French is currently organising a solar powered boat trip on Chichester Harbour and will provide further details.

7. HUMOUR

7.1 From David Childs Hopkins

Subject: Older people

ARE WE THE PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA? REALLY?

ARE WE THE PEOPLE WHO ARE LOSING IT? REALLY?

READ ON!

ONE

Recently, I went to McDonald's and I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets.

'We don't have half dozen nuggets', said the teenager at the counter.

'You don't?' I replied.

'We only have six, nine, or twelve', was the reply.

'So I can't order a half dozen nuggets, but I can order six?'

'That's right.'

So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets
(And they think they are worth \$20.00 per hour?)

TWO

I was checking out at the local Wal-Mart with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those dividers that they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the divider, looking it all over for the bar code so she could scan it.

Not finding the bar code, she said to me, 'Do you know how much this is?'

I said to her, 'I've changed my mind; I don't think I'll buy that today'.

She said 'OK', and I paid her for the things and quietly left.

THREE

A woman at work was seen putting a credit card into her DVD drive and pulling it out very quickly.

When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet

and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM thingy.

FOUR

I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car.

'Do you need some help?', I asked.

She replied, 'I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door un-locker.

Now, I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenience store) would have a battery to fit this?'

'Hmm, I don't know. Do you have an alarm, too?', I asked.

'No, just this remote thingy', she answered, handing it and the car keys to me.

As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, 'Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries. It's quite a long walk'.

FIVE

Several years ago, we had an Intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, 'I'm almost out of typing paper. Now, what do I do?'

'Just use paper from the photocopier', the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make 25 blank copies.

Perks of being over 50 and heading towards 90!

1. Kidnappers are not very interested in you.
2. In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
3. No one expects you to run--anywhere.
4. People call at 8 PM and ask, "Did I wake you?"
5. People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.
6. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Things you buy now won't wear out.
8. You can eat supper at 5 PM .
9. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
10. Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size.
11. You can't remember who sent you this list.

Forward this to everyone you can remember!

PJH 7.06.2024