



Chichester & District Probus Club

MARCH NEWSLETTER

To all Members

1 PRESIDENT'S GREETINGS

Welcome again to Crouchers. Our membership is currently 43 and at our March lunch we have possibly four guests as potential new members, and we welcome Carole Devlin as a new member.

Our speaker, Bill Avenell, will be entertaining us on Weather Lore "Why the Shepherd was happy with the red sky."

Our menu is Chicken breast and dauphinoise potatoes with kale and creamed wild mushroom sauce followed by Triple chocolate brownie with citrus creme fraiche, toasted almonds and homemade vanilla ice cream. The vegetarian option is miso with sesame glazed aubergine with caper and almond beans.

Friday May 10 will see the inaugural 'Spring Special' Lunch, complementing our Christmas Festivity and superseding the Ladies' Lunch as was. However, it is fitting that we have a lady as our Special Guest and Speaker.

Mrs Gillian Keegan, MP for Chichester and Secretary of State for Education, has accepted our invitation to join us in our celebration and speak to us. It has been made clear that the nature of the occasion is social and celebratory rather than 'political'. The focus will be on her life from early days until now (a moving and dramatic history), her mentors at Westminster, daily life as an MP and any anecdotes which may entertain and, of course, Education - so very dear to her heart.

Also, she would be grateful if it were possible to gather a few questions from the members ahead of the event to give her some idea of the kind of things you are interested in hearing about.

These can be sent to John to arrive no later than May Day!

The Lunch – open to spouses, partners and 'guests' - will be an OPT-IN with May Day again as the deadline. We are looking at a 2- course Lunch, but with a choice of mains and dessert and veggie options.

Please note:

Security of leading MPs is an important concern and we have been asked not to use social media. I see this as a private and low-key engagement which will not be publicised beforehand. Thus, publicity should be restricted to this Newsletter and to our Members who can, of course, bring guests and so will need to inform invitees.

2. SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU WISH TO CHOOSE THE VEG OPTION
AND/OR CHEESE REPLACEMENT
I WILL ADD 2 X GLUTEN FREE

ABSENCES: I have apologies from Messrs ANDREWS, CHILDS HOPKINS,
CURRELL, DENNETT, FRENCH, GILES, GRIFFITHS, HARTLEY, HORNE,
LUFFINGHAM and MS PAT DUARTE

Please let me know asap if you are not attending 07855 580609

**PLEASE SIGN IN ON ARRIVAL with Gizmo-Generator, Chris Fuller ,who
will click (and collect!) you in and debit you for £10 so BRING A CARD
please!**

RAFFLE:

Roy Fairfull and Julian Ford-Robertson will offer a trio of tipples to tantalise your taste
buds.

2.3 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS 2024

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

MAY 10 – FRIDAY- Gillian Keegan, MP - Special Guest and Speaker

JUNE 13 - Father Peter Bustin – An ART Lecture

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

As you are all aware the cost of lunch at Crouchers is quite a bit more than we were
used to paying at the Park Hotel.

Attendees at lunch will have to pay a supplement of £10. Payments will be collected on
the day by card. I have obtained a card reader for this purpose.

Your cooperation in this regard is much appreciated.

Frank Griffiths, Treasurer

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 PRESS REPORT

Berlin's many facets were the subject of a talk given to members of Chichester Probus Club at their February meeting at Crouchers Hotel, Bosham.

The speaker Frank Pattinson, formerly taught German at Whitgift School and Christ's Hospital in Horsham, and is now a Riviera Travel leader. One destination he covers is Berlin which is sited on one of the 12th century Imperial Trading routes during the time of the Holy Roman Empire,

He said that the city rose to prominence only when Frederick III was crowned King of Prussia in 1701 and made Berlin the royal residence city. He merged areas into Greater Berlin, and began a massive development programme.

Since that time the city underwent formidable changes. Before the Second World War there were palaces and elegant squares 1920s decadence and concerts.

Then Hitler's regime destroyed Jewish properties and businesses, and eventually resulted in Berlin being bombed by the Allies leaving only 85 buildings remaining intact, said Mr Pattinson.

Then came the Cold War with Russia, the Division of East and West Germany with the Berlin Wall erected in 1961, and the Wall coming down with reunification of Germany in 1989.

Now many buildings in the city had been rebuilt in their original style, he said. Stark contrasts existed with much of the city shabby, but surrounded by palaces and elegant squares.

Visitors could enjoy restaurants and beautiful open spaces, go to Kaufhaus des Westens - the second largest department store in Europe, see memorials to the dead, and walk up the famous Unter den Linden to the Brandenburg Gate, a great symbol of a united Berlin.

Eve Fuller
Press Officer

6 SOCIAL ITEMS

6.2 Coffee Morning Thursday, 7th March at 10:30 am.

Thursday's Coffee Morning was again 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.)

7. HUMOUR

7.1 From my Canadian friend

Due to my time alone, I finished three books yesterday. And believe me, that's a lot of colouring

What did our parents do to kill boredom before the internet? I asked my 26 brothers and sisters and they didn't know either.

I tried donating blood today...NEVER AGAIN! Too many stupid questions: Who's blood is it? Where did you get it from? Why is it in a bucket

There's nothing scarier than that split second when you lose your balance in the shower and you think, "They are going to find me naked."

Today, I melted an ice cube with my mind just by staring at it. It took a lot longer than I thought it would.

Struggling to get your wife's attention? Just sit down and look comfortable.

Just sold my homing pigeon on eBay for the 22nd time.

I grew up with Steve Jobs, Johnny Cash and Bob Hope. Now there are no jobs, no cash, and no hope. Please don't let anything happen to Kevin Bacon.

Shout-out to everyone who can still remember their childhood phone number but can't remember the password they created yesterday. You are my people.

One minute you're young and fun. And next, you're turning down the stereo in your car to see well.

Think you're old and you will be old. Think you are young, and you will be delusional.

When I offer to wash your back in the shower, all you have to say is 'yes' or 'no'. Not all this "Who are you and how did you get in here?" nonsense.

Not in jail, not in a mental hospital, not in a grave—I'd say I'm having a good day.