



## **Chichester & District Probud Club**

# **MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER**

**To all Members**

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

President's greetings for May newsletter

We gave John Hargreaves a good send off at our April lunch when he relinquished his membership to take over chairing a Worthing chess club.

I now want to share with you the arrangements your Committee has agreed for the Club until the AGM which this year will be held prior to our August lunch.

Chris Fuller has kindly agreed to step up from Assistant Secretary and become our Secretary until the AGM. He is looking for an Assistant Secretary. Any member willing to consider the role should get in touch with Chris who can explain the duties more fully.

Peter Heydenrych will supervise the raffle and choose the rafflers until the AGM. The meeting will then decide whether to continue the raffle, having been briefed on the financial implications by the Treasurer.

John had already found speakers for our lunches up to January 2026. For meetings after that date a small group - Eve Fuller, Dexter Williams and I - will select speakers for us.

With regard to walks and coffee mornings the future of both activities will be determined by the AGM.<sup>8</sup>

Our speaker at our May lunch will be Madeleine Salvetti on "Origins Behind Our Sayings Used in Everyday Language."

### **2. SECRETARIAL SCRIBBLES**

#### **2.0 GENERAL:**

Following the resignation of Secretary John Hargreaves, I will continue, "pro-tem", until the 2025 AGM.

John is going to be an incredibly difficult act to follow, as he did much for the Probud club behind the scenes, and in front.



**John Hargreaves**

The Speaker on May 8 will be Madeleine Salvetti: “*Origins Behind Our Sayings Used in Everyday Language*”, Madeleine will be accompanied by her husband Geoffrey.

## **2.1 RAFFLE:**

There will be no raffle at the Spring lunch.

## **2.2 NEW MEMBERS**

John has left the club a legacy of two new members in the pipeline, namely Bruce and Cherrill West. Both will be at the Spring lunch and their applications are pending.

Bruce and Cherrill’s details will follow within the next few weeks.

## **2.3 PROGRAMME OF FUTURE SPEAKERS**

### **2025:**

June 12: Dr Martin Radford: Swallows and Amazons and the Russian Revolution

July 17: Peter Varnish OBE – A.I. – Friend or Foe? (THIRD THURSDAY)

August 14: Frank Pattison – Bewitching - a journey through the Harz Mountains

September 11: David Bickerton: The pursuit and sinking of the BISMARCK in WW2

October 9; Father Peter Bustin – Art Appreciation

November 13: Brian French – Egyptology

December 11: Griffiths Christmas Gala

### **2026:**

January 8: Ian Worley: ‘Charles Darwin’. 12 tba, March 12 tba, April 9 tba, May 14: Judi Darley: Chichester Oyster Boats

## **2.4 FINALLY:**

Our 8 May Probus meeting coincides with the 80th anniversary of VE Day (Victory in Europe) our thoughts go to all the millions of casualties and to the privations and sacrifices to civilians, forces and families on the home front.

**Chris Fuller, Secretary (pro-tem)**

## **3 TREASURER’S REPORT**

There is nothing specific to report.

The Finances are in order.

**Frank Griffiths,  
Treasurer**

#### **4 MEMBERS WELFARE**

We have just learned the sad news that Michael Horne's wife Angela has passed away. Angela was a strong supporter of Probus and often attended our lunches. Michael is being supported by his daughter and three sons.

David Childs Hopkins is now in Hambrook Meadows, Hambrook.

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 532609.

**Peter Heydenrych  
Welfare Officer**

#### **5 SOCIAL ITEMS**

##### **5.1 Coffee Morning Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025 at 10:30 am.**

Thursday's Coffee Morning will be held at **The Boston Tea Party in Baffins Lane**

##### **5.2 Probus Walks Report**

We still have a vacancy for a Walks Coordinator.

##### **5.3 Social Visits**

Proposed dates for three outings during the summer:

a) Thursday 22nd May - Visit to Petworth House - Standard admission £19 pp, Group rate (15+) £17.50 pp. Names of attendees requested at Thursday lunch April 10th or May 8th latest.

b) Thursday 3rd July - Joint outing with Bognor Regis and Arundel for Chichester Harbour Cruise and lunch at Itchenor Sailing Club We have 11 people for this event.

b) Thursday 18th September - Fishbourne Roman Palace informative group tour (discounted admission for 10+). Further details will follow.

**Brian French  
Social coordinator**

#### **6 PRESS REPORT**

##### **Titanic remembered**

April 10 was an appropriate date for Chichester Probus Club's illustrated talk at their monthly lunch meeting as it was 113 years to the day that the Titanic set out on her fated maiden voyage.

The speaker Rob Goldsmith was one of the few people to see the wreck of the Titanic thanks to winning a History Channel competition in 2005 for a dive to the site for a television documentary.



**Rob Goldsmith**

He said he had entered because he had been interested in her story since childhood. He won having been one of six finalists, chosen from 30,000 entrants who were interviewed. His adventure began with joining the Russian research vessel the Keldysh in the Northern Atlantic and sailing to the wreckage site. On board he learned more about the Titanic, attending lectures and being briefed about his trip in the Mir submersible. It was one of the four submersibles in existence able to go down to 6,000 metres, with great attention paid to safety in its design and construction. It was very small inside - only 2m across - but the pilot and three others could go down 12,465ft for 12 hours.

This experience, Rob said, was unforgettable and very moving. Their investigation of the wreckage left after the disaster which claimed more than 1,500 passengers' lives revealed the extensive damage, and the effect of being underwater for so long. He saw lifeboat davits swung out to sea, the tear in the hull when it hit the sea bed, and a debris field including thousands of plates and champagne bottles and a woman's shoe.

Only 200 people had seen the wreck first hand and they were likely to be the last, particularly since last year's submersible tragedy which raised serious concerns. Before the talk, held at Crouchers, members said goodbye to John Hargreaves, the club secretary for the past few years. President Tony Dignum thanked him for his hard work and kindness.

**Eve Fuller**  
**Press Officer**

**PJH 30.04.2025**