



# Chanctonbury Probus Club

*Annual Journal 2022/23* (edition 28)

The year started with a handover of the Chairmanship from Ray Gatward to John Maunder.

Thank you to John and all the other committee members for their cheerful dedication and execution of the tasks in hand in the rebuilding of normal operation post Covid.



## **NOTE FROM CHAIRMAN**

This is the 28<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Club. In my address to the Club as the incoming Chairman at last year's AGM, I remarked that the New Year promised to be a much better year for the Club in terms of not being affected so much by Covid and its aftermath. This has proved to be the case with a full year of monthly lunch meetings and all the other regular gatherings and activities taking place. It has been a great year for social events and trips away as we shall hear later from Laki Marangos. Regular coffee mornings have taken place as have the monthly walks, except where bad weather intervened. Some members played golf among themselves. The last twelve monthly lunches have comprised one AGM, one Chairman's invitation lunch at the Southlands Barn in West Chiltington, one Christmas Quiz (thanks as always to Roger Millard), six External speakers and three Internal talks from Graham Moss, Stuart Pullen and Steve Denham. The average monthly attendance at the Old Tollgate has been in the high twenties with some members still having to shield either for themselves or for their wives or partners.

## WALKS

The monthly club walks started in May 2023 with a Walk around Loxwood and The Wey and Arun Canal—Tim Healey- followed by Eartham and



Slindon Estate—Ted Hooker-(June),

Steyning—David Barnard—(August),  
Midhurst— Stuart Arnold -(October),



Shoreham Fort—Ted Fisher -  
(November),

Highdown Hill and Gardens—Bruce  
Thompson -(February 2023) and Burpham—Mike Brett - in  
March

## TALKS

In July a talk entitled “The Inspector Calls” and was given by Neil Saddler, a retired detective, formerly with the Brighton police. He spoke to the Club a few years ago when he described his role after the Brighton bombing.

The August Speaker was a former geography teacher from Christ’s Hospital. His talk entitled: Why is Church Lane So Steep?

In September the Speaker was Mr Alan Kingshott, a former Chief Yeoman Warder, who told us some of the “History of the Tower of London”.

November gave us Graham Moss. Several years ago, he gave a fascinating talk on his role with the Samaritans and this time he provided us with more fascinating incites into the charity’s operation.

The December festive season provided us with ‘A Roger Millard Christmas Quiz’ which provoked some intellectual reassessing.

In February the Speaker was Nicholas Coysh, an osteopath with a practice in Storrington. Nick spoke on “Staying Active and Mobile in Retirement”.

The March Speaker was Alan Chalmers who talked about “Behind the Scenes at Centre Court”.

The April Speaker was again one of our own members, Steve Denham, who gave an incisive talk with the title of “Retail is a People Business”.

## EVENTS

**A**gain the Social Committee has pulled all the stops out to provide our members and associates with a full programme of events. Well done and thank you to all the individuals who undertook the management of the events. They included:

**On 6th May 2022** 27 members and associates visited the Bluebell Railway at Sheffield Park in East Sussex on a trip organised by Tim Healey.

Our party travelled in restored 1950s British Railways carriages behind Steam Locomotive 73082 “Camelot” from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead and back.



**8th June 2022** "Play Petanque", a new event for the Probus sporting members, was held on at the Horsham & Shipley Community centre (HSCP). This initiative (now has charity status) started as a walking football club some 8 years ago, which has now grown to include Mens Shed woodworking and Petanque in addition to walking/darting football.

**23rd June 2022** Rich Borrett organised and drove a group of 20 members and associates around Amberley Museum. A most enjoyable and educational day was had by all although there was much debate about identifying certain items exhibited as 'of historical interest' whilst they were still in daily use in most members homes! There was however general agreement that public transport has improved in comfort.



**1st July 2022** A nice summer's day for a walk by 19 Probus members and partners around the little known Coolham Airfield in Shipley was organised by Laki Marangos. Our guide, Richard Harris, a trustee with the Horsham & Shipley Community Project had essentially created this walk from personal accounts of the airmen who lived and died here. The airfield had a short time span of a few months during 1944, but an important role in the preparation and execution of the Normandy landings.



**4th July 2022** 18 members and associates gathered, under the guidance of Clive and Angela Jones, to hone their skills with the croquet mallet, ball and hoop! After some skills practice and tests ( with points that ment prizes) we were paired up and 2 rounds of match were under taken.

**18th July 2022** On 18th July, almost the hottest day of the year, 27 members, Associates and partners embarked on a visit to the Palace of Westminster organised by Tim Hulbert and Alan Price. We stayed cool for the first few hours in our air-conditioned coach. It started to warm up a bit when we got to the Houses of Parliament, though inside it remained fairly cool for most of the day. We started our tour in Westminster Hall, most of which has survived for over a 1000 years and was the site of the first parliament in 1265 and such other historic events as the trial of Charles 1. We were warmly greeted by our host, Lord Faulkner of Worcester who had been instrumental in helping us to organise the visit.



**11th August 2022** Simon Poulson organised a visit for eleven members to the D Day Story in Southsea on a very hot August day. We had arranged talks, tours and a buffet lunch with Andrew, the Curator. We are going to the Normandy D Day beaches for four nights in a months' time and are keen to learn more about what we will be seeing.



## 15th August 2022 Inter-Probus croquet event

This annual event was organised by Jonathan Isaacs president of the Sussex County Croquet Club at Southwick, and hosts of the event. Just a couple of weeks ago it was the host site for the 2022 world golf croquet championships, so it was like playing at Wembley! Our Probus contingent of 15 people, members and Associates, was a quarter of the total from another 4 Probus clubs, namely Southdowns, West Chiltington, Storrington and Rother Valley. We were split into two groups; (a) beginners and (b) experienced i.e. those with a club handicap. The first 20 mins we were all given some tuition depending on level of experience and then we were placed in groups of 5 or 6 pairs in a round robin competition. A buffet lunch was much appreciated as was a visit to the bar. Play resumed in the afternoon and eventually two sets of winners were announced according to the number of wins and hoops run. Ray and Valerie were runners up in group (a) and Laki and Anne Gill (guest at Southwick) winners of group (b). A lovely day of fun and as an annual event to be repeated on the 21st August 2023.



## 8th - 12th September Normandy Tour

Some 32 Probus folk and guests, including two couples from Storrington Probus, set off on a four day trip to Normandy to visit the D-Day sites. We were 21 km from Caen when the news of the Queen's passing reached our phones. Quite a shock. For a time the mood was rather sombre, however we continued to our destination.

The next day was spent visiting the British and Canadian beach landings and memorials - Sword, Juno and Gold.

Day 3 was dedicated to the US side of the landings at Omaha and Utah

beaches. The American Cemetery with some 9,500 graves does not cover the enormity and horrors of this part of the campaign.

Day 4 was added to the itinerary to give us some light relief from the emotions of the D-Day landings, cemeteries and memorials. We visited Bayeux to see the famous 70 ft tapestry. Truly a magnificent embroidered story telling of the Norman invasion of 1066.



Departure day necessitated another early start to enable us to have a couple of hours at the picturesque port of Honfleur.

**13th October 2022** Our Chairman, John Maunder, organised a successful Chairman's Invitation Lunch at the Southlands Barn, West Chiltington. There were 41 members, partners and associates present who enjoyed good food and company.



**22nd October 2022** After last year's successful visit to the Biggin Hill Air Museum, Laki Maragos organised another visit.

**27 October 2022** Chichester Festival Theatre Back-Stage Tour organised by Bruce Tompson and reported:



*I knew a number of Probus members and associates were avid theatre goers so thought it would be fun to go 'behind the scenes' at Chichester Festival Theatre to see what was involved in bringing a production to the stage. We had 31 people from the club and after separating into two groups we were each taken on a fascinating tour.*

**10th November 2022** Following an over subscribed tour of Christ's Hospital last year, Ray and Valerie Gatward organised second Christ's Hospital Verrio Tour. 23 Members, Wives and Partners attended. Christ's Hospital was founded in 1552 and the tour began with a visit to the School Museum, led by the Head Curator Laura Kidner.



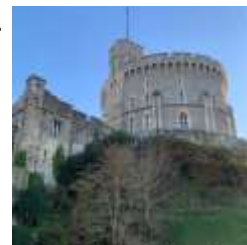
**6th December 2022** Laki Maragos organised another very successful 'Call My Bluff' wine quiz and reported:

*"A huge thank you for being such lovely participants to our quiz last night. I hope you enjoyed the challenge and indeed some if not all the wines. I have attached a list of the ones you should have guessed correctly.*

**20th December 2022** A large number of members and associates met up at the Roundabout Hotel for the annual Chairman's Christmas Coffee Morning. It was good to see so many gathering and enjoying each others company again after the restrictions of the past have slowly been lifted.



**2nd January 2023** 37 Members and associates visited Windsor castle, the largest and oldest occupied castle in the world. The coach picked us up at 9.00 and we were in Windsor before 11.00 having heard all about the castle and where we were travelling through from our excellent and informative guide.



**7th February 2023** Chanctonbury and Storrington & District Probus Clubs, organised by John Gilbert, clashed swords, albeit at Out of Bounds Ten Pin Bowling, in an annual test of bowling skills.



**21st April 2023** The Club's formal Annual Dinner for 2022/23 took place on Friday 21st April at the West Sussex Golf Club with some fifty-five diners present. Probus Chairman John Maunder and his wife, Rowenna, greeted everyone on arrival and a convivial pre-dinner session followed in the bar. As always, the golf club's restaurant was pleasantly set up for dinner with round tables to aid the flow of conversation.



Two Ladies lunches were held in the year, both at Tottington Manor. The first was the Ladies Summer lunch in July 2022 and the other was this year's Ladies Spring lunch in February 2023. Both events were said to have been very enjoyable.

## **GOLF**

We played seven very different courses in 2022. We wandered through the flatlands of Bognor, Mid Sussex and Slinfold before ascending the hills and heights of Surrey National, Singing Hills, Mannings Heath and finally Worthing where the sun literally set on our final round of the year leaving us to find our way back in the darkness from the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> greens to the clubhouse. We all returned safely.

Nine Probus members played together with almost as many guests, so we never short of company. Stuart Arnold was a clear winner of the Roy Ward Trophy for the best three rounds. He was followed by Simon Powlson and then Michael Carroll. However, Michael also won the Doug Charles trophy – presented to the winner of the last round.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At the last AGM, the Club had a total membership of 39 members and after this AGM, this number will reduce to 38.

## **INITIUM**

Ray Dawe in September '22  
Henryk Kaskow in March '23  
Chris Taylor in March '23

## **VALETE**

Victor Swanwick in September '22  
Pat Beard in February '23  
David Barnard in March '23

Three members are about to become Associates - Francis Midmer, Derek Hiscoke and Jeff Ward.



