



The AGM was held at Bramber on 3rd May over his chain of office to Simon Powlson of the support he had received from the viewed the year's activities and forthcomers, Steve Freeman and David Hubert, of office and finished by wishing Simon Simon thanked Rob for all that he had vision for the next year.

This was followed by the business part of coming year were as follows:

Graham Moss (Vice Chairman), John Keayes (Secretary), John Gilbert (Treasurer) and Ted Hooker (Social Committee Chairman).



2018. Rob Golding formally handed and in doing so, expressed appreciation Management Committee. He briefly re- ing events. He referred to two mem- who had passed away during his term well in the future.

done in the last year and outlined his

the AGM. Officers elected for the forth-

We have welcomed four new members to the Club in the last year - they are.....

Ray Gatward - a retired Army Officer whose interests include Walking, Travelling & Golf



Michael Carroll - Still working as a consultant in the Pharmacy industry, his interests include Golf and his holiday home in Portugal.

Steve Denham - formerly in retail and currently a freelance journalist. His interests are local history & neighbourhood retailing.



Stuart Arnold - was a Quantity Surveyor, still works as a Solution Architect in IT. Interests include walking, family history, campervanning, swimming, golf, DIY and music.

Patricia Hanwell, a long time Associate member died in February 2018 & two members, Peter Meadows and Hugh McLeod, resigned during the year.

Monthly Coffee Mornings organised by Clive Jones have continued to be a feature of our social calendar with an average of 21 attendees. The high spot was the Chairman's Coffee Morning where 46 attended. Long may it continue.

The Walks programme organised with grateful thanks to David Barnard, is an important item on the annual agenda of our activities. There are normally nine walks; one each month from March to November, normally on the second Tuesday of the month – led by a different leader each month, and with a participation of generally between 10 and 20 keen supporters. Each walk usually starts from a convenient pub, and ends there in time for lunch, together with a few non-walking friends who join us.

The 2018 programme took off in **March** with a Downland walk, starting in Amberley and led by John Keayes along the South Downs Way with fine views over the Arun Valley. In **April**, Mike Brett led us from The Woodman Arms at Hammerpot on a walk through the Angmering Estate. In **May**, John Howard took us along the “Monarch’s Trail” from Houghton, onto the South Downs Way, and then into the Arun Valley. In **June**, Simon Powlson took us to the Chichester area, along the Canal Harbour and around the Yacht Basin, ending at The Blacksmith Inn at Donnington. **July** saw us at Wey-Arun Canal, near Loxwood, with Alan Jeffs, and again in **August** with Roger Millard near Billingshurst, going via Lordings Lock and the picturesque Streele Lake. Ted Fisher led the **September** walk from Ferriing towards the South Downs, with fine views up on Highdown Hill. Then on a gloriously sunny and warm Autumn day in **October**, Ted Hooker took us on a short walk through the pretty village of Patching, with clear views of the Downs and the English Channel. Then, to round off the season, Clive Jones led the final walk of the year in **November**, on an un- seasonally warm and sunny day, on the Burpham Loop, with clear views as far as the Isle of Wight.

A fine and varied programme, in good company, in our lovely, scenic area, and for some of us, for the first time.

Thanks to Ted Hooker and the Social Committee, once again, we enjoyed a full, varied and stimulating programme of events this year, with something going on every month.

It started with a Visit to Malvern and the Morgan Car Factory in **May**. Sixteen members, partners and an Associate made their way independently to the Abbey Hotel in Great Malvern and gathered in a quiet private room for an excellent dinner and time to socialise. The following morning was spent on a comprehensive and very interesting conducted tour of the Morgan car factory, seeing all the

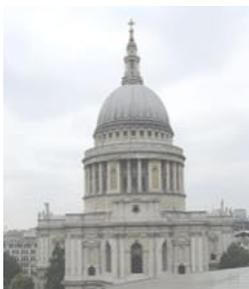


including the manufacture of timber frames and metal panels right through to the final assembly of the completed car.

After lunch, some (fitter) members took to the hills and conquered Worcestershire Beacon. All returned safely! Others used the time to explore the Malverns and surrounding area. After an early dinner, Rob Golding expressed thanks and appreciation to Ted Hooker for organising such a superb and enjoyable event and presented Ted with a Morgan car (Dinky size). The day concluded with an evening at the local Festival Theatre to see a production of "The Final Curtain"



Then came the London's Burning Tour in **June**. A group of 41 Members, Associates and guests set off by coach for St Pauls Cathedral where we were met by our guide, Sarah, (an old friend) from City and Village tours. On arrival at the cathedral we were taken on a comprehensive and interesting tour around the cathedral with its many interesting features pointed out to us. We stopped off at the Pavilion End Pub for a lunch break. Unplanned visit to the interior Guildhall which provided some unexpected interest. An interesting and enjoyable trip organised by Tim Hulbert.



July saw us visiting Viridor Materials Recycling Centre. Fourteen recycled teenagers from the club met at the Viridor Materials Recycling Facility, at Ford for a private conducted tour of the facility. Unfortunately numbers were restricted to 14. After a very informative introductory talk by the Education Officer, we were issued with personal protection equipment and taken to the viewing platform where we could see what happens to the recycling material as it enters the plant before travelling on very fast moving conveyors to be machine sorted and separated into individual types and prepared for dispatch to reprocessors for manufacturing into new goods and products. Whilst on the viewing platform, we heard an excellent commentary through our individual head sets. A most informative visit.

In **August** a crew of 43 Members, Associates and partners set off to explore Southampton harbour aboard the **SS Shieldhall** - an event kindly organized by Hugh McLeod. Despite extremes of weather from bright sunshine to thunder and lightning across Southampton docks everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves aboard the SS Shieldhall. We had good cover when the weather was inclement and plenty of room to walk the teak decks when the sun shone. A number of members took the opportunity to visit the engine room with its stifling heat and its brass levers and dials and the two hour cruise around the docks gave time to enjoy the sight of the enormous cargo ships the 3 Cunard liners Queen Victoria and Queen Mary2



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between the showers. With sandwiches, sausage rolls and real ale for those who wanted it, our refreshments on board were enjoyed under cover and the SS Shieldhall with its volunteer crew brought us back to shore as the 3 liners were beginning their preparations for an evening sailing. All credit to our driver from Woods Travel who had to cope with torrential rain and flooded roads to bring us home safely.

Rick Borrett arranged this excellent 'taster' day at the **GallyHill Shooting Club** at Banstead in **September**. The 4 Club members are shown here (with instructor Ron Knight) holding 2 firearms - the picture is not threatening as may be thought from the two members on the right of this photo! Given the very positive feedback this is likely to prove popular if Rick is able to repeat it next year.



October saw the annual **Chairman's Invitation Lunch** which was held at Worthing Golf Club, successfully organised by **Graham Moss**. (This event was previously known as the Ladies Invitation Lunch.) It was attended by 54 members and



guests, all of whom appeared to enjoy themselves in merry conversation and laughter. This underlines the benefit and pleasure that events of this nature bring to the Club, reinforcing the fellowship we try to nurture. Comments received afterwards were generally very complimentary about the food; the service and the

overall ambience of the venue. On the day, we had the added bonus of a bright, sunny and warm day, which, for mid-October was a delight. Here's to next year's Invitation Lunch !



Forty six members, partners and five guests attended the "**Call My Bluff**" event organised by our in-house Sommelier, Laki Marangos in **November**. Teams of six were presented with six different, but well selected wines, each accompanied by tasting notes prepared by Laki and presented very eloquently "with straight faces" by Helen Keayes, John Gilbert and Ted Fisher. After careful consideration each team member made their choice. The identity of each wine was announced, bluffs were called and points given to those making the correct selection. The winning team on table 4 comprised of Alan and Vicky Jeffs, Clive and Angela Jones and John and Rowenna Maunder; well done to them. However the overall winner was Anne Hayes who avoided touching an alcoholic drop all evening, relying on appearance, what was said about each of the wines and 'nose' of course! Well done Anne. This event was a most convivial and enjoyable evening and everyone is looking forward to the next similar occasion, which is now becoming an annual fixture.

Thanks to **Peter Hayes** using his persuasive influence with the Chichester Festival Theatre, in **December** he was able to obtain 29 tickets for members and associates to attend the **Christmas Carol Concert**. An excellent performance was provided by The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth conducted by Captain Andy Gregory supported by the Chichester Cathedral Choir and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended.

The following day, we enjoyed our **Traditional Christmas** lunch at the Old Tolgate. Roger Millard again kept us entertained with one of his quizzes and we duly thanked the staff at hotel for all their hard work for us during the year. A week before Christmas we had another very well attended gathering at the Roundabout Hotel for the **Chairman's Coffee Morning**. Forty-six people shared mince pies, coffee, Christmas cards and seasonal good wishes. As ever, it was a happy prelude to Christmas holidays.

Sport played a prominent part in the programmes early in 2019 - perhaps to help shed those extra pounds from the celebrations!

In **January**, 12 men and 4 ladies from the Club, set off for our first experience of **curling** at Fenton's rink near Tunbridge Wells. We were split into four teams and, after a quick tutorial, collected our "stylish" shoes and "brooms", and headed onto the ice with coach Felix.

Two hours were spent trying to master the art of pushing a 20 kilo lump of Ailsa Craig granite 150 feet down the ice to stop on a target circle 12 foot in diameter. A tad tricky, but slowly we improved from hopeless to hopeful and even managed to score a hat trick (three same coloured stones in the circle). Needless to say there was lots of shouted advice, excitement, furious



sweeping, and delight. Several friendships were strained as competitor stones, knocked out opposing stones or worse still one's own. All praise need to go to our two most promising players Peter Picthall and Ted Hooker. Initially, most were unsure but the day resulted in some budding Olympians, tremendous fun and a day to remember – roll on next year when "revenge" is rumoured to be the operative word!

February saw 24 club members, and 9 from Storrington & District, take part in our usual "friendly" game of Ten Pin Bowling, at the Out of Bounds, Rustington. We all retired to the Wind-



mill Inn for lunch, where prizes were awarded to the best two ladies (Pat

Beard and Gill Gilbert), best two gentlemen (Clive Jones and Stuart Arnold) and the best overall team Ted Fisher, Alan Jeffs, Pat Jeffs and Stuart Arnold). There is concern that some of the newer members are winning the prizes! There was a sigh of relief as this was the first year Storrington failed to steal all of the lime-light. A good day was had by all.

This year we also provided opportunities for members to try other new sports. Following a lunchtime talk on '**Croquet—a sport for Old Codgers**' by Jonathan Isaacs, we were invited to a 'taster' session organised by **Laki Marangos** and other devotees. This proved very popular and we now have enough 'Old Codgers' to take on some local competition!

Not to be outdone in the race for the 'Old Codger' vote, **Paul Chislett-Trim** organised several short sessions as an '**Introduction to Bowls**'. This is also proving popular and we shall shortly be the fittest Probus Club in the Region without doing anything too strenuous!

Golf as usual was a significant part of Club activities for some members in 2018/9. Alan Jeffs reports as follows:- “The weather was just about as bad as it could be, with a terribly wet winter, a cold late spring and an over-dry summer. Courses suffered – some to the extent that they subsequently closed. But despite all this, we got out and about and had some fun, albeit in slightly lower numbers than previous years, We participated strongly in the ever expanding local Inter Probus competition, but, alas, failed to lift the trophy. A new trophy was presented by our Probus Club for the new team event – we want it back! Our internal Roy Ward Stableford competition was held over 4 days on 4 good courses thanks to the hosting members. Alan Jeffs just scraped home as overall winner in front of runner-up Arthur French. The Doug Charles Trophy has been held over for 2019 as the planned for event was cancelled due to the parlous state of the now defunct, Foxbridge Golf course. Plans for 2019 are now underway with one or two tweaks to generate more flexibility on timing of events, and to allow guests and partners to play.” All Club members are encouraged to participate, all abilities are welcome!

Lunches on the first Thursday of every month are the mainstay of our Club and this year attendances were high. We had some particularly good speakers during the year including several ‘home grown’ events. Our own Associate, **Barbara Yarrow** entertained us in **August** with a fascinating description of her experiences as an Evacuee to America during the war. In **November**, **Mike Brett** organised a team of seven members to talk about the service of their relatives during the First World War. It was a most moving occasion as members revealed some first hand accounts of the horror of the trenches. In **March**, **John Keayes** talked about Bermuda where he and his family had lived and worked for some years. Our speaker for **April**, was not able to come as she had to go into hospital. Literally at 24 hours notice, **Tim Hulbert**, with the help of 4 randomly selected volunteers, produced ‘**Poetry Corner**’, where people read their favourite poems or prose. Judging by the groan which went up when it was announced, it promised to be a disaster. However at the end the verdict was very favourable as people appreciated the range of emotion and humour it revealed. It also demonstrated the huge range of talent available in the Club!

We were also fortunate to have some excellent external speakers. We started the year with **Tony Pointon** who provided us with a gripping insight into the evidence surrounding the **Kennedy Assassinations**. He was followed in **July** by **Graham Clifford** talking about **Amberley Working Museum** - a place familiar to many of us. In **September**, **John Stoy** regaled us with stories of **Lord Nelson** who was apparently followed into battle at Trafalgar by Stoy’s own great grandfather-in-law. John filled out the picture by appearing in the uniform of a Commander in the

RNR, complete with four gold rings! **January 2019** began with a presentation by **Stuart Spinney** of the work of the **Storrington Food Bank**. This was a sobering topic, following the excesses of Christmas and generated some sensitive and interested debate. **February** saw the return of an old favourite **Neil Saddler**, speaking this time on **Gongoozling for Beginners** (or Life on the Canals to the uninitiated!) As usual his personal account was both informative and very funny.

The social highlight of the year was our 24th Annual Dinner, once again, held at the West Sussex Golf Club. Judging by the overall atmosphere created by the 60 guests attending; the sound of “social chatter” and laughter throughout the evening; and several favourable comments received afterwards, it proved to be yet another success for the Club. This annual event was seamlessly organised by Graham Moss on behalf of Chairman



Simon Powlson. It was particularly good to see our 4 newest members (Michael Carroll, Stuart Arnold, Steve Denham and Ray Gatward) attend, with their wives, and for them to experience the fellowship and friendship on which our Club thrives. Due

to building works in progress at the venue, the complimentary welcome drinks of bubbly were served in a temporary marquee, situated on the front lawn. We were fortunate that it



was a mild and dry evening! All the guests successfully navigated the steps on their short walk to the Dining room – thankfully without any mishaps! Throughout the evening, the dining room staff once again proved themselves to be very friendly and courteous in providing a smooth and efficient service, which added to a lovely evening. Before we knew it, it was time to call an end to proceedings and to go home, rich in the knowledge that friendships had been developed and strengthened.

