



Chanctonbury Probus Club

Annual Journal 2020/21 (edition 26)



from our Chairman

Well, was it a lost year? Some might think so but I do not. When I became Chairman of the club in May last year, little did I think the pandemic would last beyond the autumn! How wrong was that assumption! However, the club has made the best of the situation despite the restrictions that Covid 19 imposed on us by way of lockdowns, and we can now hopefully see light at the end of the tunnel. I believe that the viability and future of the club has been preserved by our ability to adapt to the new circumstances thrust upon us; therefore, not a lost year!

I am extremely pleased that we were able to keep the club motivated with various Zoom events which were started well back in June 2020 and are still going strong and for which I want to thank all those members who were able to participate. In addition, some outdoor coffee mornings and a couple of outside events were managed in the summer.

The Social Committee has worked hard to set up potential events for the coming year and I look forward to the club moving forward into the next year with a full calendar of activities.

Unfortunately, there was great sadness with the loss of a number of our members during 2020, notably Peter Picthall, Norman Humble, Ray Parker and Bob Minter, all notable long-established members of



Chanctonbury Probus, who contributed much to its success. Our return to lunch meetings at The Old Tollgate will be sadly marked by their absence. We also lost four of our associate members during the year—Beryl Spring, Muriel Cook, Ken Guiver and Christine Eubank.

Nevertheless, with the prospect of the end of lockdowns soon, I am looking forward to a positive future when the club can again be a thriving ‘social club’.

from the Social Committee

What a year! Since taking over from Ted Hooker last May, our planning document had some 30+ ideas for events, but they all had to be put on hold. The Social Committee comprising of myself (Chairman), Ian Gibson (Secretary), Alan Jeffs (Golf), Simon Powlson, Bruce Tompson and Jeff Ward (speakers) had to craft new ideas to keep club members and associates in social contact albeit socially distanced to comply with Covid-19 rules. Fortunately Zoom helped us meet virtually for talks, quizzes and some wine tasting no less.

Here is a summary of what we managed to organise:

Talks organised by Jeff Ward

June 26th - Colin Brown. - RNLI

July 23rd - Dr. Julian Hoad - My life as a country vet

Sept 7th - Estelle and Martin from EV Technologies - Owning an electric vehicle

Oct 21st - Jane Lowes - Above us the stars

Nov 19th - Eric Jackson - Staying safe online

Jan 14th - Dr. John Ridley - A village headmaster

Feb 18th – Jonathan Powlson – Vaccines & Viruses

Feb 25th - Nick Dobson - The life and career of Agatha Christie

March 18th – Roger Browne – The history of Jazz piano (organised by South Downs Probus)

Mar 25th - Penny Wheat - Well I never!

April 29th – Jeremy Holmes – The poet John Donne

Some of these were recorded (with permission from the speaker), which proved popular with some who either could not attend the event or had difficulty tuning in to the live zoom session. Thanks Jeff for all your efforts.



These regular events have helped maintain the Chanctonbury Probus community.



Roger Millard excelled himself with 5 rather tough quizzes.

16th July, 20th August, 24th September, 4th November, 15th April

Roger's planned Chichester historical tour for April was delivered virtually over two sessions on 27th January and 10th February. Well over 30 zoom windows tuned in. Huge thanks to Roger.

Simon Powlson found gaps in between lockdowns to organise two outings

19th September, 6 of us visited the Brighton Gin Distillery

11th October, 12 of us enjoyed the Northern Lights presentation at the Chichester Planetarium.

Alan Jeffs' report on the Golf Activities.

Like most things in 2020 our activities were interrupted by covid regulations. Notwithstanding we got out and about albeit only locally and not without adjustments to the programme and venues. We managed to complete our two domestic annual competitions through the late summer months, although with fewer members participating than in previous years as injuries and illness took their toll.



Thoughts are that we should perhaps have another competition open only to those who have their original hips, knees and shoulders!!!

The Inter - Probus competition planned for August was not to be so, instead, we challenged the South Downs Probus to a two-game mixed match-play competition. This was held in the late autumn first at Hill Barn then at Cowdray with Chanctonbury coming out overall winners – admittedly with the help of a few choice guest players to bring our numbers up to strength. It was, of course, the taking part that mattered. This looks like becoming an annual event as it was good fun and enjoyed by all, especially partners.

Alan Jeffs handed over the helm at the end of the season to Simon Powlson after 5 years of

“unbureaucratic steerage with the help of everyone”.

There now seems to be fewer active golfers amongst local Probus groups, including our own, so perhaps there will be, in the future, less competitive play replaced by more social engagements in our dotage?

A huge thanks to Alan for all his efforts over the years to create plans and book venues as well as provide prizes for winners of competitions.

In association with the Chanctonbury Wine Club, we enjoyed some wine education:



30th October – with a Laithwaites professional presenter on the Rioja region

11th December – a wine club member gave suggestions for festive wines and food

19th March – another inhouse presentation on new discoveries.

Some of the planned events for the coming year subject to possible restrictions.

We hope the following events (outings) will be allowed to take place.

17th May – Guided visit to Leonardslee Gardens (Ted Hooker)

20th June – A day of Croquet at the Rother Valley Croquet club (Clive Jones)

8th July – A visit to the Hampton Court RHS flower show (Simon Powlson)

9 – 13th September – Tour of Normandy (Laki Marangos)

TBA October – Visit to Christ’s Hospital (Ray Gatward)

The Social Committee hopes to organise a few more events as soon as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted. Although we do have quite a list of ideas to explore, we do welcome input from the members for new events. We try to spread the events to meet a variety of interests.

My thanks to my colleagues in the Social Committee and the organisers for helping achieve the objectives of our very active Club.

Laki Marangos

from our Secretary

During 2020/21, having completed all the appropriate application forms, we have welcomed two new members, Tim Healey and Alan Price who will be properly welcomed into the club once we can restart our monthly lunches.



Tim Healey



Alan Price

During the year, Peter Hayes advised us that due to health issues he was no longer able to participate in the usual club activities and wished to transfer to the Associate Members list.

The full Club Membership now stands at 37 and we now have 20 Associates many of whom we are pleased to see at our various zoom talks and quizzes. Once we are no longer subject to covid restrictions, we look forward to them being able to join us again at our outside activities.

In November 2020 in order to comply with bank requirements for using internet and telephone banking, we had to amend paragraph 4.9. of the Club Rules. Changes in Club Rules should be approved at an AGM but it was agreed by the Management Committee to ballot all members by email for their approval and announce the outcome at the next AGM. 23 members (more than 50%), approved the change) and there were no objections.

Members and Associates continued to be kept apprised on the Club activities through, email and the Club website. In the absence of being able to hold committee meetings, the Club benefitted considerably from the use of Zoom enabling it to function as best it could. The Management Committee met on 10 occasions and the Social Committee held 7 meetings during the year.

The 2020/21 Annual Journal compiled by Rob Golding and Steve Denhham, a little slimmer this year for obvious reasons, will be installed on the Club Website. A copy of this year's Journal will be sent to all members and associates.

The Club has managed to maintain limited contact with other local Probus Clubs, usually confined to the exchange of speakers etc. No actual inter club meetings have been held.

The Club Website has been given an overhaul by Rob Golding and Steve Denham. The objective of its reconstruction was to make the site provide information about the club and its activities to members, associates members and guests with a simpler path for navigating. The response from the members has been favorable.

The secretarial role has kept me busy during the last year but some changes to the portfolio of responsibilities are now appropriate and this is a good time to hand over to somebody else with new ideas and a fresh pair of eyes.

Ian Gibson

And to round off the Annual Journal a report on the Ladies events.

When Clive took over as Chairman last year, I had already been preparing for a ladies summer lunch in the Pashley Suite at Shoreham Airport. Menus were agreed and I was all set to send out provisional invitations, when our way of life seemingly ground to a halt. It was clear that there would be little chance of planning any sort of face to face gatherings, and so, with much trepidation, I embarked on an adventure with Zoom! It was an online experience new to all of us I think, so we learnt about it together and over the months I feel we have made good use of the opportunities it has offered, to allow us to get together, share Covid experiences, talk about something *other* than Covid and very essentially have some light relief and a bit of fun with the help of Dingbats, Ditloids and various other brain teasers!

Like Clive, I'm sorry I haven't had a 'normal' experience in my role but despite everything, it's been an enjoyable year of 'making the best of things, at which I think we all do very well!

Thanks everyone for your support and encouragement. I wish Ray and Valerie all the best for the coming year and look forward to many happy Probus meet upsin the flesh!

Angela Jones



And finally.....

Considering the extremely trying and testing year we (and whole world) have experienced it is quite heartening to see how active the club has been able to remain. THANK YOU to all of you for helping to contribute to maintaining a robust club. To a brighter future.

CLUB OFFICALS FOR THE YEAR

The officers elected for 2020/21 include:-

- Chairman Clive Jones
- Vice Chairman Ray Gatward
- Secretary Ian Gibson
- Treasurer Stuart Arnold
- Social Committee Chairman Laki Marangos
- Past Chairman Graham Moss

The Social Committee currently is:-

- Laki Marangos—Chairman
- Ian Gibson—Secretary
- Jeff Ward
- Simon Powlson
- Alan Jeffs
- Bruce Thompson