

15 people turned out for this walk organised by Alan Jeffs. Three more colleagues joined the group for lunch at the Crown Inn at Cootham.

In July 12 members, associate members and families, 3 visitors from Australia and one dog enjoyed this 3.5 mile walk east of Ashington organised by John Howard. The walkers were joined by three more members and wives for an excellent lunch at the Red Lion pub.

Roger Millard's walk in August to Bramber, River Adur & Downs Link was a memorable one! 7

people started out on a beautiful warm day but half way round an impressive thunderstorm caught up and completely soaked them. 3 more people joined the wet ones to enjoy a good lunch at the Castle Inn Hotel in Bramber.

September's walk to Ferring Rife was organised by Ted Fisher. 13 members met at The Henty Arms at Ferring. They walked the West Bank of the River Rife stopping at The Bluebird Cafe for a welcome coffee, returning to The Henty to join three club members who had arrived for lunch. An enjoyable chatty stroll of about 5 miles with no discomfort from the odd squally showers. In October a party of 14 set off from the Sir Roger Tichbourne pub north of Loxwood to the Wey and

Arun Canal Centre. At the pub afterwards walkers were joined by 5 others for a good lunch although one of the party had a bit of a wait as his lunch had a

Fawty Towers style accident and ended up on the kitchen floor! In November the destination was "Pulborough Brooks" for a walk organised by Simon Powlson. The walk started at the White Horse pub and crossed the Brooks to the RSPB centre where a welcome refreshment break was taken before returning to the pub for lunch where they were joined by 3 other members. The last walk of the Club year in March was organised by John Keayes to "Amberley Downland". The walk started on a fine springlike morning at the Bridge Inn at Houghton Bridge and ended there with a fine lunch.

Many thanks to those members who did the organising.

In July 2016 the Club took the plunge and set up its own website, [www.chanctonburyprobus.org.com](http://www.chanctonburyprobus.org.com)

But this year it has been expanded by John Keayes, with valuable help given by Victor Swanwick. The site's use has grown significantly this year so that the number of individual visitors has steadily developed from an average 4.2 to 10.4 visitors/day. There are now 13 main webpages and the pages most 'hit' in the last year were the 'About us'; followed by the 'Club Diary'; 'Flyers'; and 'Photographs'. The least hit pages were the 'Club Rules' and 'Useful Links'. David Barnard was the first new member attracted to the Club directly through the website.



On 26th April, 50 Members, Associates and Guests attended the 23rd Anniversary Dinner at the West Sussex Golf Club, which was, yet again, a special and very splendid occasion. On arrival guests were offered a glass of "fizz" as a prelude to the start of a relaxed and very convivial evening. This avoided queues at the bar and arguments as to whose turn it was to pay! Judging from what could be

seen and heard during the evening, the constant "warble and humming" of conversation and laughter, it was clear that everyone was enjoying themselves. Many guests said that the meal was one of the best they had enjoyed at the Annual Dinner. As ever, the Golf Club did us proud, both in the quality of the food and the efficiency of their service. Background music was provided by Chris Lee throughout the evening.

At the end of the dinner, our Chairman, Rob Golding proposed toasts to our guests and to Probus. His wife, Anne, was presented with a floral arrangement by Simon Powlson. Rob expressed sincere thanks and appreciation to the event organiser, Graham Moss, for another very successful Anniversary Dinner. This was met with a loud round of applause and a happy smile from Graham who makes the point again that the success of this event depends largely on Members supporting it.



So ends another very successful year for our Club. Once again we have enjoyed friendship and each others company doing a variety of different things and, as our Chairman recently reminded us, most importantly, supporting each other in difficult times. Long may we continue.....

The Journal is edited by Ian Gibson and Tim Hulbert



# Chanctonbury Probus Club



JOURNAL OF EVENTS – 2017/18

The AGM was held at Bramber on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2017. Arthur French formally handed over his chain of office to Rob Golding and expressed his thanks and appreciation to members of the Management Committee for their hard work and support throughout the year. The outgoing Chairman made a special appeal to new members and others who hadn't volunteered so far to assist in club activities, to do so, especially as membership numbers had increased during the past year.

Rob Golding has worn the Chain of Office with a smile throughout the year. As one of our newer members and after a bout of illness he took on the challenge of trying to drive the wild horses in harness and to great effect. As the stories below will show, it has been a year of activity by all, drawing new and old together in the good fellowship which we expect in Chanctonbury Probus. Well done Rob!



We now have 41 Members, back almost to where we were two years ago. The Club is benefitting greatly from the vigour and enthusiasm of those who have joined in the last eighteen months and we look forward to welcoming others this coming year — perhaps we can reduce the average age still further. In future those joining via the website, will be sponsored by the Vice-Chairman who will provide a friendly eye in getting them started.

The Associate List is increasing as infirmity means some former members are no longer able to attend meetings regularly. We still enjoy their company whenever they are able to join us or we are able to visit them.

Ken and Pat Guiver are now Associates.

Eric and Anne Hoffman have retired back to Holland but have asked to stay on the Associates List. Eric will be missed by many as, in recent years, he has been our conscientious Welfare Secretary. He is also a former Chairman of the Club.

Joining the Associate list to keep in touch from the frozen North is David White from whom we are delighted to hear and hope to see him and other representatives from the 'Northern Branch' during the year.

We welcome David Barnard as a new member this year. He moved to Storrington, from the Oxford area, in 2017, having recently retired from a varied career in mechanical engineering. Trained on jet engines at Rolls Royce he moved into the field of construction and mining machines, developing innovative products with David Brown in conjunction with the Caterpillar organisation.



We were very sad to lose two long standing members in the last year.

Steve Freeman died in July. He had been on the Associate List for about two years after his sight failed and he could no longer feel his way about. Several members kept in touch and were always welcome at his flat for a cup of tea and a catch up on the news.

David Hubert died quite suddenly in September. He had been ill for some time but was a regular attender at lunch. Always with a cheerful smile and an encouraging word, we marvelled at his ability to drive his beloved Jaguar to the end. He was a founder member of the Club.



Our lunches at the Old Tollgate at Bramber on the first Thursday of the month are the focal point of the Club's activities. Providing an opportunity to renew friendships, enjoy a good meal and listen to an interesting speaker, they bring together about 32 members each month. This year we have had some interesting speakers including two of our own. In September Mike Brett spoke on "My Family & other Famous People" - a fascinating personal insight into his 'ordinary' family. In January Roger Millard kindly stepped in when our speaker had to cancel and gave an excellent illustrated "walking tour" of Central London showing the haunts of distinguished scientists. He also organised a successful Quiz at our Christmas Meeting.

Other speakers included Wies Rogalski on "Polish Allied Forces in Britain", Ian Wright on "The Bluebell Railway", Mike Abbott on "Camino de Santiago Pilgrims Route", Jonathan Isaacs on "Croquet, the sport for Old Codgers". This latter speaker has resulted in a 'taster session' being organised for our old codgers in November 2018. In February we had a really scary (though perhaps a little exaggerated) talk on "Wi-fi Radiation" by Alan Cooke, who had us all holding our mobile phones at arms length. We enjoyed a return visit from Rupert Toovey on "Antiques and Auctions" who was as entertaining as ever. We rounded out the year with James Burns speaking movingly about "Help for Heroes" Our thanks to Jeff Ward for organising these speakers.....





In the capable hands of our new Social Committee Chairman, **Ted Hooker**, we have enjoyed a most interesting and varied programme this year.

Starting in June, a very enjoyable and convivial social evening was held at the Foxbridge Golf Club attended by 41 members, associate members and guests. The evening started with everyone meeting for drinks. This was followed by an excellent BBQ laid on by the Golf Club offering a choice of meats and fish, bread and an excellent choice of salads. An innovative free raffle was then held with each guest invited to find their raffle ticket under their place mat. The lucky winners were then presented with a bottle of wine left over from the "Call My Wine Bluff" evening held in March. *A big thank you to Bob Minter for organising such an enjoyable evening.*



On a sunny Monday morning in July, some 16 people comprising members and spouses gathered at **Petworth House**. The tour was led by a very knowledgeable and amusing volunteer who made a potentially dry subject into an interesting and informative session. The one and a half hour tour encompassed all the major art works in the three rooms we visited (Carved Room, Red Room and North Gallery). Additionally a host of minor elements in each room were pointed out and their significance identified. Several items were discussed in detail including the only copy in existence of Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales". After thanking the guide and before we dispersed for refreshments, the anatomy of the various statues was the subject of some discussion! *Many thanks to Peter Picthall for organising a very interesting visit and to Ray Parker for standing in on the day.*



August included "Lunch with a Difference" 45 members travelled to Southampton for a tour of the P&O vessel *Britannia*, with lunch in the main restaurant at the end. Security checks took longer than normal. Something to do with "so many metal knees and hips"! The tour involved a great deal of walking, but everybody found it very interesting and informative. At one stage I was full of admiration for the members' determination and stamina to complete the tour. Then it was pointed out that most of our members had endured more than this during and after the war in order to get a meal, so, climbing stairs and bracing the upper decks, was child's play! The whole event was much enjoyed but, what with the numerous cruise additional charges, not many people felt encouraged to take up cruising. The ship was **BIG**. As one member put it "fancy getting to breakfast and finding you had left your specs behind—you would spend the entire day looking for your cabin!" It was reassuring that 45 members arrived and 45 made it home. *Many thanks to John Gilbert for organising such an interesting and enjoyable trip.*



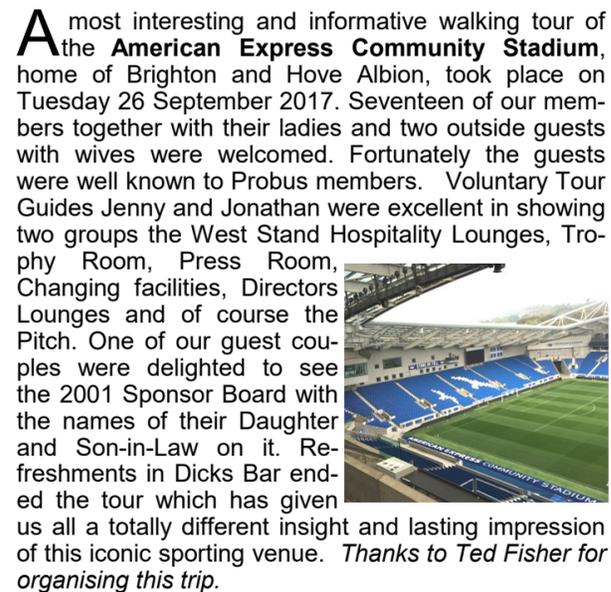
Most interesting and informative walking tour of the **American Express Community Stadium**, home of Brighton and Hove Albion, took place on Tuesday 26 September 2017. Seventeen of our members together with their ladies and two outside guests with wives were welcomed. Fortunately the guests were well known to Probus members. Voluntary Tour Guides Jenny and Jonathan were excellent in showing two groups the West Stand Hospitality Lounges, Trophy Room, Press Room, Changing facilities, Directors Lounges and of course the Pitch. One of our guest couples were delighted to see the 2001 Sponsor Board with the names of their Daughter and Son-in-Law on it. Refreshments in Dicks Bar ended the tour which has given us all a totally different insight and lasting impression of this iconic sporting venue. *Thanks to Ted Fisher for organising this trip.*



October 12th saw the **Annual Ladies Invitation Lunch** held again at Worthing Golf Club organised by Graham Moss. The event was successful in attracting 57 guests this year, which helps to show that this annual lunch remains an attractive and popular occasion for our Club members and associates. Despite the pressures of Brexit (!) and the usual inflationary pressures, the Golf Club were able to maintain their prices at very reasonable levels. The catering group at Worthing Golf Club provided us all with a very delightful meal along



with a very competent and seamless table service. We had the added bonus of the occasion being blessed by a very sunny and warm day which made the setting and the lunch that much more enjoyable. The 3-course meal was enjoyed by most of the guests - there have since been a number of positive comments received in praise of the food and the venue. Plans are already in hand to prepare for and arrange the next annual Invitation Lunch, which is likely to take place along very similar lines to this year's successful event.



On Monday December 13th a total of 49 members and their guests gathered at Foxbridge Golf Club for an informal Christmas gathering. Lively and relaxed guests, in pleasant surroundings and an excellent meal cooked by the resident chef, Nicky, made for a very successful event. We have held this event for a number of years at Foxbridge and it would be good to go back but sadly ownership has now changed and the future is uncertain. *Many thanks to Bob and Jean Minter for helping us get Christmas off to a good start.*

In February 28 club members, and 11 from Storrington & District, took part in a "friendly" game of Ten Pin Bowling at the Out of Bounds, Rustington. After great discussions as to who plays in what lane with who, the members settled down to the usual rivalry, especially between husbands and wives! Later everybody retired to the Windmill Inn for lunch, where prizes were awarded to the best lady, **Helen Keayes**, best gentleman, **Cliff Palmer** and the best team, **Ted Fisher, John Keayes, Jeff Ward, Mike Brett and Rob Golding**. It would appear that some people had been practicing before the day, as the overall scores were considerably higher than last year. A good day was had by all.



Thanks to the organising efforts of Ted Fisher, 21 Members, Associates and Guests, had a very enjoyable day out in Southampton on 15<sup>th</sup> March. The day started with a very pleasant lunch at The Vestry restaurant close to both the car park and the Mayflower Theatre. The Miss Saigon production was excellent and enjoyed by everybody who went. This was the third theatre trip organised by Ted and we all look forward to the next one.



Golfing activities have again been organised this year by **Alan Jeffs** with great success. He reports as follows:

"Golfing in 2017 varied a little from previous years, probably to the annoyance of some and pleasure of others. Although our numbers are holding up, tempus has "fugited" a little and fewer folk were able to commit to the traditional trip to northern Europe in August. So instead of playing away we played at home! We played on six occasions during the year, competing in 4 events, and utilising a number of local courses. **Hugh McLeod** won the inter-Probus competition, **John Howard** took home the Roy Ward trophy and **Alan Jeffs** somehow got over the line for the Doug Charles trophy. In the late autumn we challenged our golfing friends in the South Downs Probus to a friendly mixed sex team game, but lost, just, and will no doubt seek revenge next year. 2018 looks busy and plans are in the making for more varied and team events in the pursuit of the little white ball."



Coffee mornings have been a successful part of our programme too. **Clive Jones** has been our genial host at the Roundabout Hotel this year. We have had an average attendance of 22 on the 10 occasions. It is a good opportunity for people to meet and chat. We are most grateful to Clive for collecting the money, pouring the coffee and welcoming people and to those who covered for him while he was away.

On 12th December the Roundabout was the venue for the traditional Chairman's Coffee Morning, graciously hosted by Rob and Anne. 48 Members, partners and Associates attended, making it a very enjoyable occasion and a good start to the Christmas festivities.

An excellent programme of varied and interesting walks took place during the year and were very much appreciated by those attending. In April Mike Brett organised the Angmering Estate Walk Around 20 members and associate members then had lunch at The Woodman Arms at Hammerpot.



May saw 8 people enjoying the nice weather and beautiful bluebells on this 2 hour walk to Eartham & Nore Hill Folly, north of Slindon Village organised by John Keyes, followed by lunch at The George at Eartham. The venue in June was Parham & Pulborough Brooks.