



The Probus Club of Locks Heath

Volume 7: September 2020 "New Technology to the Rescue"

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Welcome

Our club (official title "Probus Club of Locks Heath") was formed in 1981 and has developed over the years. We now have a membership of fifty which is the maximum we can accommodate at our venue. As such, we do have a short waiting list, but encourage those on it to attend meetings periodically when space permits!

We normally meet at 12.00pm. on the first Thursday of every month at [Sarisbury Green Community Centre](#) when we have a short business meeting and a Ploughman's Lunch followed by a Speaker and finish around 2.00pm. A pay bar is available.

We arrange group holidays, recent examples include a cruise to the Norwegian Fjords from Southampton with Fred Olsen Cruises, a visit to Lake Como in Italy and two river cruises in Europe, one travelling part way by Eurostar, as well as a cruise around Britain.

We organise outings, for example a visit to Greenwich and visits to the Chichester Festival Theatre as well as local events such as an annual Summer Event for members, wives and guests. A *Ladies Day* formal dinner is held in November. Photos from recent events and holidays can be seen in our [Photo Gallery](#).

This month's Newsletter features articles from our new sections of our website [Memories](#), [Our Members](#) and [Blast from the Past](#) as well as articles on our first journey into the world of Skype!

Our Newsletters for [March](#), [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), [July](#) and [August](#) are also now available online.

Note that for easier navigation you can also [link directly to all sections of our web site from here](#)

Andy Skinner presented The History of Southampton Docks on August 18th at our first ever Zoom meeting



An historic day was made today as twenty four members of the Probus Club of Locks Heath gathered together online using [Zoom](#) to experienced their very first online group presentation.

The presentation on the history of Southampton docks was given by [Andy Skinner](#) who started by referring to the term [POSH](#) which Andy said was not really relevant in real terms and that it's current interpretation had been manufactured over the years.

Andy began by referring to the history of Southampton starting in [Roman times when it was known as Clausentum](#). The area known as Bitterene today was mainly involved in the production of Fish Sauce. The next area occupied was St Mary's where a Norman mediaeval town was established. It was primarily involved in the wool trade and in handling wine which was imported from [Gascony](#).



Who says us "Oldies" can't do new technology?



Probus meeting clip from the Zoom screen. Everyone seems to have a shirt on at least!

After months of self isolation and inability to either hold regular committee meetings or meet up as a group, the committee met up to discuss how best to progress over the coming months using Zoom..... who says us oldies don't understand new technology.

The meeting was a great success and in addition to agreeing a position on fees for the current year (see Colin's separate note) also concluded on trying our first remote talk on Southampton Docks, details below.

As the title says "Who says us oldies can't do new technology!"

..... and there was more to come as you will see in the next section of this Newsletter

Moving forward, the seventeenth century saw the start of boat building in Southampton and rounding area, in fact it is [400 years ago this year since the Mayflower left Southampton](#) on its voyage to the new world being forced to stop off at Plymouth due to a leak in it's hull. As such it is Plymouth rather than Southampton that gets credit for this voyage of discovery. Later came the development of steam powered liners including the [Great Western](#) and [Britannia](#) which crossed the Atlantic in just twelve days (the Mayflower took sixty six).

An [Act of Parliament](#) was needed in 1803 to establish Southampton Docks, the SS Targus being the first ship to set sail from there, immigrants to America were the main traffic at that time. Passenger traffic started in the 1860s.

When that occurred, expansion of the towns shipping capacity was required to help trade enabling new businesses such as nurseries to be established providing grapes fruit and similar items for the ships.

The next phase saw more companies moving to the south coast in the 1890s including the [start of luxury liners](#).

The [City of Paris](#) was the first luxury liner to move to Southampton in 1888 with work on the new docks completed in 1890 despite [regular strikes](#) including movement of the railway station due to flooding. Further development completed in 1910 including huge warehouses.

The first occupant of the new docks was the [White Star Line](#) which could host huge four funnel ships including [Mauritania](#) which became holder of the [Blue Riband](#) for transatlantic crossings.



1912 saw the departure of the [Titanic](#) on its fateful journey, three quarters of the crew being locals to the Southampton area. Soon after came the First World War, the sinking of the Southampton based [Lusitania](#) with Americans on board leading to the US joining the war.

The current West Docks were created just after the end of the war with the introduction of the new "[Tourist Class](#)" vastly increasing the number of travellers but this was all to change again with the outbreak of World War II. The docks having a [major part to play in D-Day](#)

Post war, there was a general move from liner based holidays due to the increasing availability of affordable air travel with the [QE2](#) the first ship to buck the trend and reestablish the idea of a holiday at sea.

Southampton is now a major sea port commonly seen as driven by the three C's – Cruises, Crude Oil and Cars. The [additional tides](#) available through the positioning of the Isle of Wight being one of the key factors.

A VISIT TO TED HEATH'S HOUSE by John Pearman



Twenty members of Locks Heath Probus visited Salisbury to view [Ted Heath's house](#) in spite the terrible weather conditions at the time.

Usually groups of twelve make up a tour party, but Ted Brown and John Pearman rearranged the touring groups into eight, making it more convenient and giving us the opportunity for a more personal visit.

[Ted Heath](#) died in July 2005 leaving his £5million estate to a charitable foundation which included opening his home for the education of the public. Later the [Sir Edward Heath Charitable Foundation](#) said that the cost of opening, running and maintaining the house and garden far outweighed the revenue that would be raised from visitors.

The Foundation stated the it did not have sufficient funds to keep

Arundells open indefinitely, so a visit such as ours may be an opportunity perhaps that may not be repeated. The [Charitable Commission](#) has yet to decide if it will sell Arundells and revert it to residential use, but at least members have seen the house that was Ted Heath's home for the last twenty years of his life.

(Webmaster's Note: Selling the property was forbidden and, as you will see from previous links, the house remains open to the public)

Article first published in *Locks Heath Probus Newsletter Volume 2, Number 11 in October 2011*

Further background on Sir Edward:

Former British Prime Minister and Conservative party leader Sir Edward Heath is perhaps best remembered as the man who took Britain into the EC via the [European Community Act](#) in 1973. And as an added extra, a verb short Biography of Sir Edwards HeathBorn in 1916, Heath attended Oxford university and was president of the Oxford Union. During World War II he served in the [Royal Artillery](#) winning an M.B.E, and in 1950 won his first seat, Bexley, for the Conservative party.

He rose quickly through the party ranks and in 1965 became party leader at the age of 49. He was Prime Minister from 1970-1974, over-seeing the deployment of British troops in [Northern Ireland](#) and economic crisis and mass strikes in Britain.

His greatest success was Britain's entry into Europe. He lost the Tory party leadership in 1975 but remained involved in politics until 2001.

[Sir Edward Heath](#) is pictured in discussion with his eventual successor to the Tory leadership Margaret Thatcher, at the 1972 Conservative party conference.

YOUR CLUB



A plea for help

We are trying to keeping the website updated with information of interest added when available.

We have requested that all members keep the committee informed of their own wellbeing and how they are coping with current situation, how about sharing some of that with the Group? We have been aiming to produce a montly online Newsletter throughout the situation. **But we are running out of input!**

Anecdotal stories of past adventures either personal or via a Club activity can be shared too. Everyone can contribute! (*not having time is not now an excuse*).

Hand writing, email, and other forms of communication are acceptable.

See our new sections [Memories](#) and [Our Members](#). Let your's be the next article added to these or other sections. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Please send your input to probuslocksheath@gmail.com