

# The Probus Club of Beaconsfield

## Monthly Newsletter

Issue 1 May 2020



*Bluebells in Hodgemoor Woods taken by Geoff Gudgion*

### Welcome

Thanks again to all who have expressed your support to the introduction of a Monthly Newsletter to keep you informed about how your Club is moving forward during these currently restricted times.

Some of you have expressed your willingness to contribute to the content.

Thank you to those Members' who have submitted material and suggestions included in this first edition.

Please keep your contributions coming by emailing me through the Club email address -

[beaconsfieldprobus@gmail.com](mailto:beaconsfieldprobus@gmail.com) heading your email 'Monthly Newsletter'

*Ian Petrie*  
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## Your Committee

Having mastered the technology and admired the distinguished beard that has been grown by a prominent member of your Committee (name withheld for reasons of privacy), we went on to have a very successful online Meeting on 30th April.

### Matters Discussed

- Annual Subscriptions will remain suspended until the Club resumes normal business. They will be charged pro-rata to the Club year end once we start meeting again
- Annual Accounts (subject to audit) and Treasurer's Report **John Meins** presented his calculations and report online to the Committee. Thanks to John for continuing to do such a sterling job in keeping our finances and bank account in such a sound condition.
- **Alun Walters** has cancelled Speakers for the foreseeable future. 'The Revolution' have been totally understanding and are not charging the Club in the interim.
- **Alan Schofield** has cancelled the planned trips to Brooklands and Althorp.
- The Club Holiday to Bologna has been cancelled by **David Webster** who is remaining in contact with the travel company with a view to using them in the future
- Similarly 'The Grovefield' Summer Lunch has been postponed for the time being.

Whilst it is very disappointing to report so many cancellations, the health and wellbeing of our Club members are our top priority and, clearly, what we can achieve in the immediate future is greatly restricted.

- **Chris Belk** has put forward to the Committee the idea of holding Online Presentations until such time as we can get back to normal meetings, and as used currently by many other Clubs and organisations.

Some sessions can be interactive and others can just be straightforward video lectures. It may not be possible to reach all 80+ membership at any one time for both technical and logistical reasons, but it may be of interest to a reduced number of members as a start.

The proposal would be dependent on **Alun Walters** being able to source willing presenters, though a lot of lecturers are using this process now. There would be a cost to the Club in hiring the services of the speaker and for the technical connection at the time of broadcast.

Is this something you may be interested in?

Please email [beaconsfieldprobus@gmail.com](mailto:beaconsfieldprobus@gmail.com) with your views headed 'Online Meetings'

## What have you been doing during lockdown?

Many of us have been keeping in touch one the telephone or via social media.

I know lots of you have been taking the opportunity to get those gardens into pristine condition or to clear out that store cupboard. Many are taking exercise by walking either within or outside the boundaries of our properties.



For the gardeners, you will have received notice from Buckinghamshire Council that Garden Waste Disposal Collection resumes week commencing 11th May. For those with other stuff to dispose of, **Bryan Hatter** reported recently that Beaconsfield Waste Disposal facility has re-opened

*'Went at 9 yesterday and the queue was back to the island. A neighbour went on Wednesday around 2pm and only waited for 10mins. Please note they are controlling the traffic and entry very rigidly and will not allow access from GX direction'*

Due to strict Social Distancing measures, Members are advised to use this facility at their own discretion

## Suggestions to Our Members

Many Organisations and Establishments such as Theatres and Art Galleries are offering online access and presentations, for example:

Royal Opera House      <https://www.roh.org.uk/>

are streaming some past performances, as is

The National Theatre      <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/>

**Robin Bellis-Jones** would like to make this following recommendation:

*I have been privileged to be a Fellow of the RSA (Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce) for many years. The following is a link to their home web page and it provides a quick summary of what the society is all about (<https://www.thersa.org/> ). The RSA has very wide and diverse membership and runs a very active programme of speaking events. These are presented by people who are eminent in their chosen fields and frequently focus on contemporary issues of interest; the majority are fascinating. Because the majority of RSA members are not based in London, these speaking events have long been available for live streaming to members over the web, and are recorded on the RSA YouTube channel - all of which is available for public use free of any charge. The RSA YouTube channel is to be found by clicking the "Events" tab on the RSA home page and then scrolling down to the YouTube logo where their entire catalogue of past presentations is to be found. While I have always enjoyed the social aspects of Probus, I have also appreciated the intellectual stimulation that the speakers provide (and the subsequent Q&As). It strikes me that in the absence of Probus talks, the presentations on the RSA YouTube channel may also be of interest.*

Have you a recommendation you would like to share with other Members?

Please email [beaconsfieldprobus@gmail.com](mailto:beaconsfieldprobus@gmail.com) headed 'Shared Interests'

## A Good Read

Geoff Gudgion has announced that his new novel *Draca* will be released on 14th May, that comes with some good endorsements

"a terrific and compelling story which highlights mental and physical challenges that many who have served will recognise"

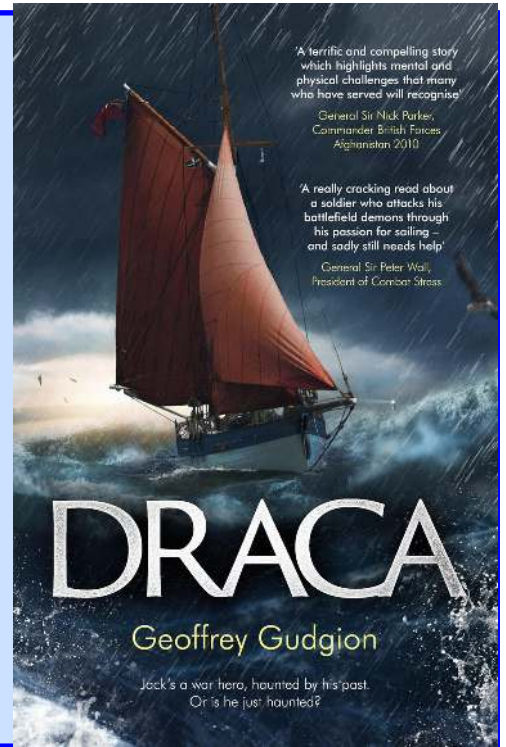
General Sir Nick Parker, Commander British Forces Afghanistan 2010

Half the royalties go to the veterans' charity Combat Stress.

*DRACA* will be published by Unbound on 14 May 2020. ISBN 978-1-78965-105-8

<https://unbound.com/books/draca/>

[Are there any books you would like to recommend?](#)



## VE Day

Like many other events, much anticipated VE Day Celebrations were curtailed throughout the country, but with judicious social distancing at the end of our respective drives, member **Ian Wilkes**, Marie and myself and a couple of our neighbours were able to hold an 'at a distance' street party up here in Elm Road



[Have you any VE Day items you would like to share with Members in the next edition?](#)

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