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Issue 10 February 2021

# Probus Club of Beaconsfield



*Snowdrops near Sarratt*

## Featuring

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*keeping you up to date*

**The Probus Club  
of Beaconsfield  
Newsletter**

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## A Word from the Editor

Unless you have a birthday or special anniversary, I think of February as a fallow month, when in normal times we would be trawling through the holiday websites and brochures

Certainly, the weather has been varied comparing the cover photo with these images below



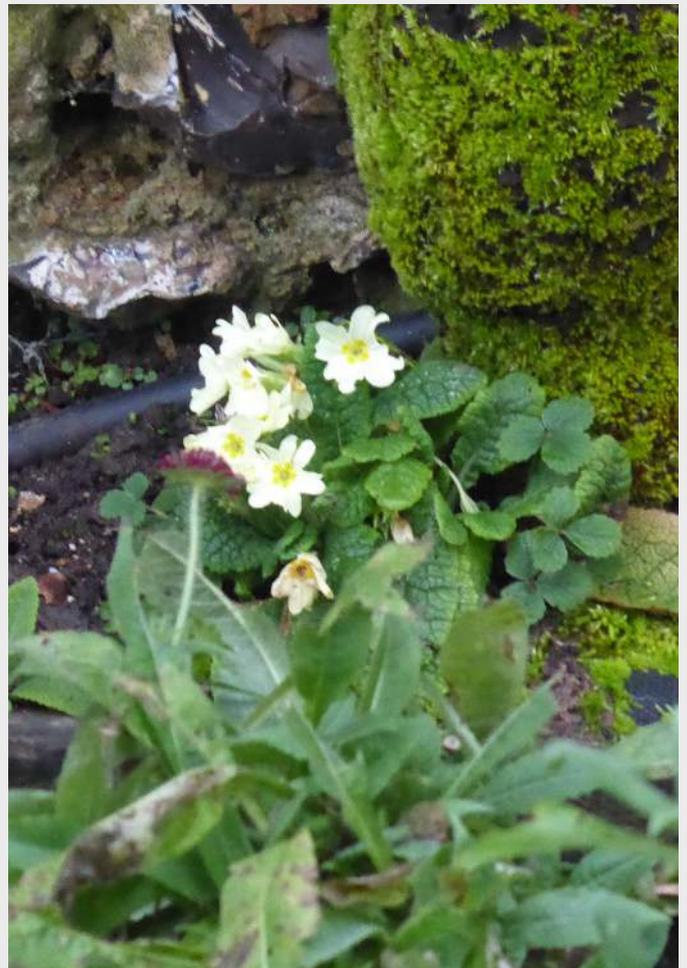
*Penn in the Snow*



*Medmenham in the Wet*

I remember a conversation with a nephew who went to work for the Government in Hawaii 'How lucky are you?' 'No. we miss the UK. The weather never changes!'

But, if my weather gauge and a visit to Greys Court last week are an indication - Spring is on the way!



## .... other stuff to look forward to ....



As I sit down to put together this month's Newsletter, it is Shrove Tuesday, so I am looking forward to a little treat later on from the young lady in my life.

If you think I am being sexist, I did do a very nice couple of steaks in Miso and cream sauce for Valentine's Day.



... and you should all be the proud owners of one of these by now!

A real step in the right direction, I think, but a way to go.

Anyway, as the figures on the right indicate, active cases in our area are once more in decline

If you or someone you know who qualifies hasn't had the vaccine yet, here is the booking link again

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>



as at 16 February 2021

## A continuing story of Stage Coaches ...



**Geoff Glover** has sent in the following account of his family's stage coaching business, and its association with Beaconsfield

**Donald Stanley's** piece in last month's Newsletter on the history of the White Hart and the role of coaching inns in Beaconsfield prompts the following.

Despite being aware that several generations back my family ran stagecoaches from London to the West Country and possibly elsewhere the relevance to our family history of Beaconsfield as a first staging post out of the capital journeying west had never occurred to me despite being resident for close on 50 years.

But in early 2018, courtesy of DNA analysis, I had a surprise contact from a 'Glover' enquiring whether perhaps we shared great great great grandparents making us third cousins. This was indeed the case and has led to a close friendship, sharing of family history and the discovery of some uncanny parallels in our lives.

My cousin had the full story of the family stage coaching business including a fairly crude but contemporary oil painting of the 'Rival' which plied from London to Cheltenham and would have almost certainly passed through our town. Other family coaches were named 'Retaliator' and 'Regulator' to reflect competition with the new fangled railway, that of Mr I K Brunel in particular. They even carried a coat of arms showing a stagecoach trampling a dragon, symbolising the upstart railway. Julian Hunt and David Thorpe's 2009 book 'Beaconsfield, A History' records that 'Retaliator' and 'Regulator' passed through Beaconsfield en route for Cheltenham during 1836.

Brunel triumphed in the end of course and there is a record of one Richard Glover spending time in a Debtor's Prison in 1850, a family trait that I have managed to avoid so far.....

## ... an interesting Podcast and Book

Listening to the radio today, I came across this interesting podcast about a retired, undercover FBI agent, some of you may enjoy. This is the link:

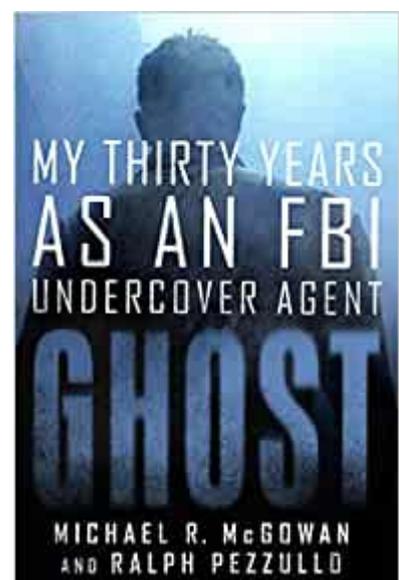
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0974mxs>

Infiltrating mobs, taking down contract killers and busting drug rings; this was the job of **Special Agent Mike McGowan** during his 30 year career in the FBI.

He was already the expert in undercover operations at the bureau when he was handed the "superbowl" of cases - to bring down the Mexican drug lord **El Chapo**.

In a sting that lasted four years, Michael and his team of agents convinced the notorious Sinaloa cartel that they too were an established crime organisation.

**McGowan** tells Outlook's Saskia Edwards about using dog psychology and a purple velour bathrobe to fool some of the world's most dangerous criminals. His book is called *Ghost: My Thirty Years as an FBI Undercover Agent*



## Our February Speaker

Our **25th February speaker** is **Patricia Gentry** who is a **Blue Badge Tourist Guide** talking to us about "**St Paul's Cathedral**".

The usual Zoom link will be coming out to Members shortly



## Thanks ...

... to all of you who have contributed to our Newsletter so far.

Some have sent in video clips I can't include as it would make the Newsletter file far too big to distribute.

As I have said before, it was not my intention for this to be my blog, so don't be shy, please keep your contributions coming.

*Ian Petrie - Editor*

