



LOCKED - DOWN TIMES

A monthly news update from the

Probus Club of Bransgore

October 2020

And so to October. As the night's draw in and the days get colder, what little social interaction we have had becomes more difficult and is likely to present challenges for our Special Interest Groups. They are all determined to continue to function in whatever way they can whilst staying safe and within the law. Being positive, the NHS Covid App tells us we are, for the time being, in a medium risk area so the Rule of Six still applies and the pubs are still open!

Club News

AGM

For the first time ever, our AGM this year took place by email and mail. We can only apologise to those that missed the excitement (!) of a real AGM but we have satisfied the requirements of our Constitution and move on into our new year that will hopefully end more actively than it has started. In a real meeting, we would have proposed a vote of thanks to retiring committee member, Barry Dench, who has served us well for many years and we wish him a well-earned rest from committee duties.

We would also have welcomed Paul Burton onto the committee as Barry's successor as Meetings Secretary, a role that, at the moment, shouldn't distract him from either the Walking Group or the Golf Society!

Meetings

As you will have seen from his Report to the AGM. Peter Walmsley (aka The Optimist) has now provisionally filled our programme of speakers for next year and we all fervently hope that we will get to hear at least some of them before the year is out. It has been decided that we won't produce the usual printed programme in view of the uncertainties of life at this time.

Record Keeping

The way we currently operate both our accounting and membership records works well but involves each committee member creating and storing their own records and spreadsheet individually on their personal computers. This led to problems earlier in the year when Peter Sharott became ill and Len Morel was forced to recreate the accounting records from scratch, which led to us having a qualified auditor's report because there wasn't a complete audit trail for Alan Cater to follow.

With Covid 19 threatening us all, the risk of a similar problem occurring is very real and presents the Club with a risk management issue that we have to resolve as quickly as possible. Logically, this means moving our records onto an on-line system with password-

protected access. We are currently investigating an on-line package of club treasurer software that also possibly has the ability to store membership records. The projected cost of £5.00 per month appears very reasonable for the additional security that it would offer.

No-one on the committee is a particular expert in this field and we're open to input from anyone who has relevant experience. Contact *Bernard Gilbert* or *Len Morel* if you can help.

Special Interest Groups

Camera Club

The Camera Club met last met on Thursday 1st October '20 for the purpose of reviewing some of the images taken a couple of weeks earlier around Christchurch Priory, The Quay and surrounding area. We had a good discussion over a cup of coffee at Stewarts Gardenlands and we all parted as friends!

Our next meeting is scheduled for later this month, October, (a bit weather dependent) in the Forest to get some autumnal scenes. If anyone would like to join us, email me for further details. We also now have a WhatsApp group so we can communicate together effectively. *Barry Dench*.

Family History Group

The Family History Group continues to be a very active group whose numbers sometimes have to be curtailed to fit the 'rule of six'. The group met on 12 September and enjoyed the hospitality of Bryan Hancock, in particular the excellent coffee and biscuits. Also very enjoyable, interesting and instructive was the presentation by John Symonds focussing on the war time experiences of his Great Uncle Cliff. *Ken Tullett*

Survivors Group

The Probus survivors group is for those who have experienced the delights of an in-patient stay at Bournemouth hospital. Sorry - day treatments do not count. The group met on 1st October at the Cliffhanger café for coffee and to put the world to rights. It was joined for the first time by Richard Evans who has just qualified. *Ken Tullett*

Golf

The Golfing Group has continued to meet fortnightly with the members taking it in turns to organise the event. New players are welcome.

Our last two outings were to Burley Golf Club, enjoying the last of the summer sun and Lymington Golf Centre, where we experienced the very changeable weather of sunshine and torrential showers!

Our current plans for the next two outings are Southampton Golf Course followed by Highcliffe Golf Course. *Paul Burton*

Classic Car Club



If you look up the history of the windscreen wiper there are a number of people who claim credit for the invention in the early 1900s. What can be said is that these wonderful little objects that made driving much safer were not added to cars as standard equipment until 1930s. Even then, you could only switch them on or off and like the Alvis I drive, they are only 8 inches long. Actually it is more accurate to say, it is only 8 inches long! No need for passengers to see where they are going. So when the weather forecast for our Bransgore Proboscis Classic Car Enthusiasts meeting included heavy showers, I wasn't particularly keen to go out in the rain.

Interestingly, as the Alvis has an opening front windscreen (who needs air-conditioning), it is not an MOT requirement to have a windscreen wiper. Being a classic car owner certainly teaches you to be flexible so after a few phone calls we decided to take a run out a day earlier in the bright autumn sun.

The Avon Causeway Hotel made us very welcome with the staff heading out to take photos of our magnificent collection. As usual, five of us spent an enjoyable couple of hours talking about cars over a decent lunch. The next meeting hasn't been arranged as yet but hopefully we'll be heading to a car museum when it is allowed. Of course, it will need to be reasonably warm as heating in classic cars is another matter! *Stephen Dennison*



Walking Group

The Walking Group continues with its programme of monthly ambles, our most recent outing involving a socially-distanced 10 of us walking across the heathland at Horseshoe Bottom, followed by refreshments at the Three Tuns.



Our next expedition is planned for Wednesday 21st October and will be a local walk suggested by Clive Saunders around Dur Hill. Details will be sent to the usual suspects by email. *Bernard Gilbert*

On the subject of walking. . .

Chris Manning, a very keen walker, has drawn our attention to a Challenge from the Ordnance Survey and Country Walking magazine. Put simply the challenge is to walk 1,000 miles in a year or, to break it down, 2.47 miles a day! Follow the link for more information:

[getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk > guides > walk-1000...](http://getoutside.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/guides/walk-1000...)

We are all told of the health benefits of walking but Chris stresses that, if you are tempted to give this a go, you should start slowly and build up. Perhaps we should also stress that this is not a Probus event and any member attempting it does so at their own risk.

And Finally. . .

Keen readers will have noticed the absence of words of wisdom from our President in this month's Newsletter. This is not because Len is suddenly lost for words but he and Sally have taken a well-earned break and we look forward to his contribution in our November issue.

Stay safe, keep well