



LOCKED - DOWN TIMES

A monthly news update from the

Probus Club of Bransgore

November 2020

Most of us would have listened to the Prime Minister's broadcast last Saturday with a deep sense of gloom as he announced another lockdown. For Probus, it means not only that the prospects of monthly meetings recede ever further into the distance but that our Special Interest Groups will have to suspend their meetings. Many of us have enjoyed these social outlets over the past few months and there is no doubt that they will be missed.

The plus side is that by the end of this period the garden will be lovely and tidy, the house will be freshly decorated and we will be smugly self-satisfied!

We know that most of you have developed a strategy for dealing with life as it now is but if anyone has a problem that we might be able to help with please get in touch. Contact Len Morel or any other committee member and we'll see what can be done.

From The President

Len Morel

Well, the AGM is done and dusted. Thank you for all the votes and messages of support I received. For the sake of formality I can now confirm the committee structure going forward is:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Len Morel | President and Immediate Past President |
| Stephen Dennison | Vice President, Social Secretary, Membership Secretary |
| Bernard Gilbert | Treasurer |
| Peter Walmsley | Speaker Secretary |
| Paul Burton | Meetings secretary |
| Ken Tullett | |
| John Brace | |

The imposition of another lockdown means that the prospect of resuming our monthly meetings seems a bit far off still. Our Common Interest Groups were thriving but are now on hold until life gets easier.

Whilst there is little normal activity for the committee to do, we continue to meet online and we are using the free time to trial moving some of our historic accounting and membership records into a Cloud-based format. This hopefully will allow us to give wider access to information across the club, and make the future handover of committee roles much simpler. Coupled with the revision of the club website in due course we hope that this will make getting involved with club activities and issues much easier. I will let you know how it goes.

To recharge my batteries for the year ahead, Sally and I had a short holiday on the Isle of Wight recently. I have to say that after months of lockdown it was great to get away, and we thoroughly enjoyed our time with lots of beach walks, a visit to Osborne, good food and the occasional sherbet.

I hope everyone is keeping well, and stays safe.

The Presidents Poser

Last month answer: *The nail is at the same height, trees grow from the top.*

This month, a riddle: *Lay me over and I am everything, cut me in half and I am nothing, what am I?*

Club Accounts and Membership Records

Bernard Gilbert

ClubTreasurer is the name of the new Cloud-based accounting and membership platform that we are proposing to purchase. Len and I have now had a close look at this, loaded data to see how it works in practice and demonstrated it to Stephen in his capacity as Membership Secretary. At this stage, we are impressed with what it offers us and have moved on to trying to tweak the structure, where we can, to suit our particular needs.

For a web-based application such as this, users have to be satisfied that their data is safe and I quote from the website:

- Our application uses industry standard “SSL” security which encrypts all data transmitted to and from your browser. Once in the application, you will notice that URL starts with `https://` and your browser may also display a padlock icon to show it is a secure site.
- All passwords are encrypted in the database which we cannot read.

The use of data will be restricted to authorised Club Officers and only for the purposes of Club administration.

Very shortly we will be loading current membership records onto this system. If you think it might be possible that the information we hold for you might be out of date (different email address? new mobile number? Etc.) please let Len or Stephen know as soon as you can.

Brangore Probus Classic Car Enthusiasts

Stephen Dennison

As with our last planned meeting, the weather wasn't being 'friendly' to old cars so we decided to head for a nice warm pub and enjoy a socially distanced lunch whilst discussing, you guessed it, cars!

The pub was the newly refurbished The Bear of Burton. It turned out to be a very comfortable place for a few hours reminiscence. The five of us indulged in some warming food and the odd pint of Fullers. Our planned trip to Haynes Motor Museum, like so much, is on the back burner and we hope to venture forth in the spring of 2021 to look at their collection of vintage and classic vehicles.

Cars, of course, have changed out of all recognition since the 1950s. You only have to look at the size difference of the Fiat 500, a very small Italian car in the last century and the modern retro version with a massive choice of colours and additional equipment. Chatting to a friend, he mentioned that the height of sophistication in 1950s was the automatic car cigarette lighter. Here is an article by Roger Brown.

The N.M.C automatic car cigarette lighter.

This was yet another cigarette storage device for the serious cigarette smoker to use as he (or she) drove along.



**The only
SAFE way
to light a
cigarette
when
driving is
to use an
N.M.C.
AUTOMATIC
CAR
CIGARETTE
LIGHTER**

**Safe
Smoking
as you drive**

It delivers a lighted cigarette into your hand at the touch of a button.
Designed to hold ten cigarettes (even 'King' size).
Easily fitted to any make of car.
Obtainable from HALFORDS and leading motor accessory stores.
Price 43/9 (including purchase tax).

Manufactured by
NOVELEC MECHANICAL COMPONENTS LTD.
3 HAMPSTEAD ROAD LONDON, N.W.1

As the ad says, "it delivers a lighted cigarette into your hand at the touch of a button". So how did it light the cigarette?

Was there a small filament at the base of the container which, when the button was pressed, ignited the cigarette?

The ad also says the container can hold 10 cigarettes (including King size). As there was a difference in length between King size and normal cigarettes, how did the igniter differentiate between the two?

The ad shows smoke rising from the igniter end; rather disconcerting for any passenger in the car.

All this 'in-car' entertainment for 43/9p!

Happy driving everyone.

Probus Walkers

Bernard Gilbert

We chose to cancel the walk planned for the 4th November on the grounds that if it was deemed to be too risky 12 hours later then it was too risky on the 4th. Our organised walks are now suspended for the duration but many of us will continue to walk on our own as part of our lock-down exercise regime. Chris Manning has reminded us of the benefits of walking, (and he should know) by drawing attention to the editorial in this month's Country Walking magazine, which can be best summed up as "walk more, worry less!"

Edwina Hancock

Bryan would like to express his thanks to the Club and to everyone who has been in touch to offer their sympathy and support at this most difficult time. Edwina's funeral will be taking place next week at Hinton Wood Memorial Garden but Covid 19 restrictions mean that this will be a private occasion. Bryan is hoping to hold a celebration of Edwina's life in the Spring to which their many friends will be invited.

Bryan speaks very highly of the care that Edwina and he received in the Forest Holme Hospice in Poole. He asks that you take a look at their website (<https://forestholmehospice.org.uk/>.)

Instead of sending flowers, Bryan has asked that you visit the website that has been set up in Edwina's memory at edwinahancock.muchloved.com where donations can be made in support of the marvellous care provided by Forest Holme.