



LOCKED - DOWN TIMES

A monthly news update from the

Probus Club of Bransgore

July 2020

Another Probus newsletter in lieu of a monthly meeting! With more easing of the lock-down hopefully you are all making good use of your increased freedoms and have successfully avoided the queues outside Primark.

There is no question that being able to meet with family and friends is a big step forward and makes a huge difference to one's state of mind but it's still not nearly close to normal. The other evening we were watching a "feel good" film on TV which showed a group of elderly people enjoying themselves and having a good time putting on a dance performance. My wife turned to me and exclaimed: "That's what I miss - having fun!"

Let's hope that it won't be too long before "fun" is back on everyone's agenda.

Club News

The Committee had a virtual Zoom meeting on Monday 6th and the easing of lock-down has encouraged us to think of ways in which we may be able to re-start Probus activities. Quite clearly, indoor meetings are out of the question at the moment but we are keen to start some form of outdoor activity as soon as Government regulations and common sense permit.

Ideas that have been suggested are:-

- Pub Walk – a short, easy walk ending up in a beer garden.
- Vintage Cream Tea – in the garden of the Old Vicarage.
- BBQ – probably in a pub or restaurant using their catering.

Please let us know by email to Stephen Dennison (dennisonstephen@yahoo.co.uk) if you would be likely to support any of these events and, at the same time, let us know if there is anything else that you would like us to consider. We're very open to suggestions and are quite willing to "think outside the box."

In addition, we think that we might well take a leaf from the WI book and start small "common interest" sub groups. This is something that will have to be driven by the members wanting to meet like-minded souls but ideas put forward so far are: -

- Military history
- Golf
- Photography
- Family History/Genealogy
- Gardening
- Cards - whist/poker/other

For this to happen, we would like you to email Barry Dench on barry.at.probus@gmail.com or 'phone him on **01425 672340** with your thoughts on what sort of group you would be interested in joining. He will then put you in touch with other like-minded souls in the hope that a sub-group will emerge. The committee is available to help in any way that we can.

The President's Piece

Another month has flown by, and thankfully we are seeing some real progress on lock-down easing. Milestones for the Morel household have been simple things like our first takeaway fish and chips, a bit of retail therapy, sitting and chatting in the garden with another couple. So many things we took for granted BC (Before Covid19) I now realise are real blessings. Today we had our first snack lunch out, a toasted cheese and onion sandwich has never tasted so good.

I mentioned last month I had dipped a toe in the genealogy pond. This has become really absorbing, and I spend several hours each week delving into the past. As well as keeping my mind active, it also serves to keep me out from under Sally's feet and I am happy to say that, despite our mutual confinement, there have been no attempted murders at Chateau Morel.

The committee idea of common interest groups sounds good and, if anyone else has the ancestor bug, I would be very happy to get together and swap stories about our forbears. I have also been part of a group pre lock-down loosely titled "The Bournemouth Hospital Survivors". We have all been inpatients at the hospital and made it home and we get together now and then over coffee and put the world to rights.

The President's Poser.

Last months answer: it was a ladies race.

This month something a bit more difficult: -

You are sitting in a motionless car, which is tightly sealed, i.e. no open windows, holes in the car, etc. A helium balloon on a string is tied to the floor. If you start accelerating the car, is the balloon going to move back, forward, or stay in place relative to the car?

Fun this week

Stephen Dennison

We're allowed out and about! Yes, we still have to be alert and keep our distance but the pubs are open and the sun is shining. My cherished red 1966 MG roadster needed a run. Why else would you own a vintage sports car! With a little bit of planning and a few phone calls, Ruth and I set off on Tuesday with a couple of petrol head friends in a 'bubble'. Off we drove passed Ringwood and on to the Verwood Road along the B3081. There was very little traffic to spoil the views or get in our way. With the top down and the wind blowing through my hair (well overdue for a haircut) it was just like old times. The countryside can only be described as stunning. Vast swathes of scenery with tiny villages and church steeples all under a blue sky with fluffy clouds could be seen on our way to Shaftesbury. So far we hadn't got lost so we decided a celebratory coffee was required. Luckily we found the perfect café with home baked cakes. Couldn't resist trying the Dorset Apple cake! The next stop on our route was Sturminster Newton but we hadn't planned for the inevitable road works. Three times round Shaftesbury to find the right road out! More delightful landscapes and we arrived. A walk was compulsory (cakes have calories) and off along the River Stour to the Mill which was mentioned in the Domesday book.



Incredibly they are still producing flour at the Mill. Having walked, talked, admired and improved our knowledge of the area, the next thing on the list of activities was a pub lunch. To meet with current guidance we had booked in advance and, on arrival at The Crown in Marnhull, we followed our instructions into the pub garden behind this beautiful

thatched building. The staff couldn't have been more helpful and the six of us had a delicious lunch. For a short while, it seemed like a normal summer's day having a laugh with friends. Even the cars behaved faultlessly with no mechanical disasters or the need to dive under the bonnet.

A fun day out with good company can definitely be recommended.

Laugh of the week

Perhaps not so funny but have you tried booking an appointment, no not for the hairdresser, but a visit to the Household Waste Recycling Centre? This is organised by Hampshire County Council and our nearest site is along the B3081. There are no appointments available in July in Somerley nor in Lymington. The only availability was in Southampton or Romsey! A crazy situation.

Editor: Is it just possible that this is the reason for the increased incidence of fly-tipping?

And Finally:



THE TAVERNS are full of gadabouts making merry this eve. And though I may press my face against the window like an urchin at a confectioner's, I am tempted not by the sweetmeats within.

A dram in exchange for the pox is an ill bargain indeed.

- Diary of Samuel Pepys, Great Plague of 1665

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

Never in my whole life would I imagine my hands would consume more alcohol than my mouth!!

