



LOCKED - DOWN TIMES

A monthly news update from the

Probus Club of Bransgore

August 2020

August already and summer is well-advanced. Staycations are the new normal, our beaches are full of people, and their waste! Lock-down has been eased, pubs and restaurants are open and, hardly surprisingly, we are looking at a possible resurgence of Covid 19. In a search for good news, it is pleasing to be able to report that it has been a good year for gardens, we can now have overnight guests and Probus is trying to re-invent itself to reflect that, for the foreseeable future, we are only able to meet in small groups.

We have already started a number of special interest groups as discussed later but, if none of these is to your liking, the committee is open to suggestions. Contact Barry Dench in the first instance.

The President's Piece

It has been very heartening over the past month how many of you I have seen and chatted with out and about in Bransgore. This leaves me more optimistic than ever that we will come through this pandemic strong and healthy, no matter the doom and gloom the media delight on feasting upon.

We had our first genealogy group meeting recently, outdoors and socially distanced but for me really interesting. When I first proposed the group I had no idea of the level of interest, knowledge and experience in the club. It turned out that we had a combined century plus length of experience and tens of thousands of identified family members. I certainly learned a lot about available information sources and techniques and am keenly looking forward to our next meeting. New members will still be welcome, though under current regulations we may need to split into sub groups to give everyone the best chance until larger gatherings are possible.

The common interest group idea has really taken off, as you can see from other articles in this newsletter, which is a real bonus given our ongoing inability to hold "normal" club meetings. The current expectation is that full meetings will not be possible for the rest of 2020, which leads on to another issue, namely what do we do about our AGM this year.

After much online committee debate, we are proposing the following course of action:-

1. We will still have an AGM in October, but will manage it through the post/email.
2. All the usual committee reports will be sent to each member

3. Election of officers will be via postal/email voting
4. Most of the current committee are willing to stand for re-election in their current roles, subject of course to agreement by the members
5. The exception to the above is that, after 7 years sterling committee service, Barry Dench will stand down. We therefore have a vacant Meeting Secretary seat and I will be very happy to hear from anyone regarding potential nominees for inclusion in the ballot. (I can tell you that I found the time I spent as meeting secretary was really enjoyable and gave me the opportunity to get to know you all so much better.)
6. We will not be seeking member subscriptions for 2020/21, as we have a reasonable current surplus of funds and no knowledge of what likely 2021 expenses will be.
7. As there have been no membership changes, we will not print a programme for the year.

More details will be made available in September (when we have worked them out!)

Of course, until we can confidently plan new meetings, there will be little for any of the committee to do, but we will continue to meet online monthly to keep things under continuous review. This will also give any new committee members opportunity to get used to how we work and can help each other.

President's poser

Last months answer: the balloon moves forward.

This month poser

You are in a room that has three switches and a closed door. The switches control three light bulbs on the other side of the door. Once you open the door, you may never touch the switches again. How can you definitively tell which switch is connected to each of the light bulbs?

Special Interest Groups

Len has already covered the Genealogy Group and progress notes from the other groups follow.

Golf

The first meeting of the Golf Society took place not on a golf course but in The Crown! Five of us, ably led by Bryan Hancock, agreed on a programme of local courses to visit on a fortnightly basis, with the first event taking place on Tuesday 11th August at Solent Meads.

Contact Bryan if you would like to be involved.

Photography

At our first meeting, courtesy of Richard Evans, four of us shared information about our abilities and roughly what we wanted from the group. We had a photo shoot at Stanpit Marsh on Wednesday 12th August and will be holding a follow up meeting to look at our results.

Bernard Gilbert or Barry Dench are the contacts if you want to be involved in this one.

Computer Group (Compus)

The Computing group, which has been named "Compus" had its first meeting on Zoom last week and had another this week. The group welcomes any member who feels they have more to learn about all aspects of the use of computers. The members of the group have all agreed that it is one of our main aims to help others.

For further information contact Barry Dench.

Military History

There are three members and, at the first meeting, it was agreed that this is too small a number to be sustainable long term. If further interest can be generated, more meetings can be planned, otherwise no further activity is expected.

Ken Tullett is the man to contact if you have an interest in becoming involved.

Bransgore Probus Classic Car Enthusiasts

Headlamps were cleaned, bodywork polished, chrome buffed, oil levels checked and tyres kicked! As accomplished and expert owners we made sure our cars were all geared up.

The BPCCE inaugural meeting was on 22nd July 2020. Anyone who owns a cherished vehicle knows not to take it out in the rain and the chosen day was a perfect, sunny summer's day. Richard, Stephen, Clive and Brian all with maps in hand set out for the adventurous journey to Tyrells Ford Hotel. It was more adventurous for some than others with Brian's car refusing to leave the garage. This is all part of the joy of classic car motoring. Brian fortunately has more than one Austin.

Tyrells Ford kindly agreed to let the stunning collection of cars (all 4 of them) park on the lawns. In accordance with government regulations the cars were parked 2 metres apart. What a sight. On show were a 1920s Austin 7 Chummy, 1934 Riley Lynx, 1935 Alvis Firdbird and a 1970 Rolls Royce Silver Shadow 2.

A grand collection of British automotive history covering 50 years.



Brian, Clive, Richard and Stephen chatted animatedly about Hobson's telegauge and numerous mechanical items before looking at the menu. Bangers and Mash plus Steak Pies accompanied by excellent Dorset beer ensured the meeting was a huge success.

We travelled back to Bransgore with Brian and the Austin in the lead, followed by the Alvis, Riley and Roller and a queue of modern vehicles enjoying the leisurely pace of 1930s motoring.

Future meetings were discussed, with the group agreeing that during the summer months further pub runs would be arranged, preferably avoiding hills! As four enthusiastic petrolheads we hope to encourage Probus members to join us (in line with guidelines) with their current cars. For anyone who would like a ride in a classic car, we hope to offer this too.

Next meeting is on **Tuesday 18th August** at the New Queen – further details from Stephen Dennison.

Walking Group

Our first walk is a gentle ramble across the heath at the back of Moorhill House down to the old railway and back on Wednesday 19th August. A distance of about 5k, taking about an hour but sufficient for us to develop a thirst to quench in the White Buck.

To ensure compliance with Covid regulations, **pre-booking is essential** and we will be passing names and contact details to the pub in advance if required to do so.

Whilst normally we would be only too happy to welcome wives and partners to our social events, Covid guidelines mean that we have to restrict our numbers to groups of six people, both when walking and in the pub. The group has agreed, therefore, to restrict this particular event to members only to keep the numbers manageable.

Bernard Gilbert is your contact for this group.

Future Newsletters

It is our intention to keep producing monthly newsletters until such time as we can start holding normal meetings again – whenever that might be! If anyone wants to raise a particular issue, or make any form of contribution, please contact either Bernard Gilbert, Len Morel or Stephen Dennison. It would be really great if we could establish a “Members’ News and Views” page.

Stay well, keep safe!

Probus Club of Bransgore