

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

No 73 1st APRIL 2026

Perhaps unsurprisingly, no one has applied for a new smelling aid by today's closing date. (See February's APT). I have received no £50 cheques. I guess you all saw through my little scam. I wanted to get my April Fool's ruse in early, but you are all much smarter than that and were not fooled at all. I am not surprised. You are following the advice given by our March speaker about spotting a scam a mile away. Well done.



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Pub Lunch at Beefeater - Just twelve members/partners attended the Beefeater lunch on 12th March and, after a rather long wait to be served, enjoyed an excellent meal. The steaks in particular were very good. Thanks again to Geoff for laying the foundation.

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I visited the Town Hall to ask if I could have a skip outside my house. The lady looked at me and said "Go ahead fatty. You look like you could do with some exercise".

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March Club Meeting Thursday 26th White Swan hotel.

The hotel had only reopened two days before our meeting, following a change of ownership, and there was a last minute panic to get menu choices to me in time to advise the membership. But we got there in the end and 22 members/partners heard Sandra Simmonds give a further vivid account of her life in Iran as the western wife of an Iranian naval officer. What a tough lady she is.. Sandra will be back again later in the year for the third and final part of her Iranian story.

20 members stayed for lunch which was very good again, apart from temporary absence of cheese and biscuits.



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Yesterday was a very special day for Mike and Elizabeth Gammon. Although we are a day late, the club's warmest congratulations on reaching your 70th, or Platinum, Wedding Anniversary are no less sincere. Members, think what you were doing on Saturday 31st March 1956 as the happy couple stepped out of the church on that spring afternoon. Dean Martin was number two in the Hit Parade with "Memories are made of this". How very appropriate.

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Birthdays this month, April, that I know about

Richard Brennan on 22nd. rbrennan118@btinternet.com Many happy returns Rich.

April Pub Lunch The Six Bells, Lyminster Thursday 9th April £25 pp

Mains

Chicken schnitzel with chips and salad

Pan seared salmon fillet with crushed new potatoes, Broccoli and chive butter

Mushroom risotto, topped with rocket and parmesan

Desserts

Eton mess

Warm chocolate brownie and ice cream

Pimm's trifle

Contact bobtanner1809@gmail.com or 01903 882127 with choices. State method of payment. Payment by BACS preferred to the Club's Business Account 10642681 Sort Code 20-20-62 Ref.Apr/PL

Cheques can be handed to me or Treasurer Stephen. Write on back of cheque what it is for.

Last day for ordering is Friday 3rd April so be quick.

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It's Covid booster jab time . I hope you are booking your booster jab again this spring. We don't hear of Covid so much these days but that nasty little bug is still around so make sure you are fully protected.

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Agenda

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday the 23rd April 2026 at 11.00 in the meeting room The White Swan Hotel Arundel

1. President's welcome and opening remarks. The President points out the fire escapes and muster points in case of a fire alarm
2. Apologies for absence.
3. Minutes of the 2025 meeting.
4. Matters Arising.
5. Annual Report
6. Adoption of Annual Report.
7. Annual Accounts.
8. Adoption of Annual Accounts.

9. Appointment of Auditor

10. Appointment of Officers for 2026/2027.

There has ben no other Member offering to take Office other than those below.

The Committee proposes the following Members to take office 2026/2027.

President – David Pidoux

Vice President – Charles Smiles

Past President – Ian Goodall

Secretary– Richard Brennan

Minute Secretary – Brian Arthur

Treasurer – Stephen Brocklebank

Speaker Secretary – Bob Tanner

Social Secretary – Chris Linford

Welfare – Ian Goodall (one year)

Hotel Liaison- Bob Tanner.

To be proposed and seconded and approved by the Members.

After approval the new President is handed the Collar and gavel by the Past President.

11. Any other Business.

12 Close of meeting

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The AGM will be fodeoblloved by a talk from Sally Botwright, returning to tell us more about “London’s Oddities and Curiosities”. Speaker Flyer and lunch choices will follow soon.

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Canal Boat Cruise, Wey and Arun Canal - 18th June

I shall soon be contacting those members who have informed me they would like to come on the cruise. I need to receive all payments by the end of April. If you haven’t contacted me yet and would like a seat or two on the boat, please let me know without delay. The cost of the 90 minute cruise is £20 per person and includes a cream tea on board.

The cruise starts at 2.00 pm from the quay at Loxwood, next to The Onslow Arms. There is plenty of parking and the boat will return to the same place.

A cream tea will be served on board during the voyage.

Touring in Wales, we stopped for lunch in Lannfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychnwyllyantysiliogogoch. Before we ate, I said to the waitress “Can you pronounce where we are, very slowly?” She leaned over and said “Ber...ger...king.”

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Tree of Hope – a symbol of recovery over loss, of good over evil and of hope over despair



You may remember the shocking story about the felling of the much-loved Sycamore Gap tree which stood on Hadian’s Wall in Northumberland. The two local scum bags are now serving time for their act of mindless vandalism.

The National trust, which owned the tree, was able to selvedge seeds from the tree and has grown a number of saplings. Applications for a sapling were invited so I applied for one for Arundel but was unsuccessful as demand exceeded availability by several hundred to one. However, every National Park in the UK has been given a sapling and the South Downs National Park decided to plant theirs - in Arundel. “Our” tree was planted alongside Swanborne Lake on Mill Road a couple of days ago so do go and say hello next time you are passing.

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Teacher to pupil “Give me the opposite of the following statement. “Children in the dark make mistakes” Pupil to teacher. “Mistakes in the dark make children”.

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What’s happening next month, May ?

Pub Lunch, 14th May at Worthing Indoor Bowls Club (Field Place) £23 pp

Charlie Meggs has arranged what promises to be an excellent pub lunch at this club.

Mains

Chicken breast wrapped in bacon in white wine and cream sauce

Roast leg of lamb in redcurrant gravy and suet cake

Pan fried sea bass with prawn sauce

Home-made vegetable lasagne

ALL MAIN COURSES SERVED WITH FRESH VEG AND ROAST POTATOES

Desserts

Home-made rhubarb and apple crumble with custard

Biscoff cheesecake, toffee sauce and ice cream

Strawberry and raspberry pavlova

Mini cheeseboard, crackers and chutney

Coffee to follow

Please contact Charles Meggs with your choices by Thursday 7th May. State method of payment. Payment by BACS is preferred to the club's Business A/C 10642681 Sort Code 20-20-62 Ref May/PL Charlie.meggs@gmail.com

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Bognor Regis Men's Probus Club invite you to a day trip to Hever Castle in Bloom

With afternoon tea/coffee, fruit scone, clotted cream, jam

Wednesday 1st July 2026 Cost £58 (including coach driver's tip)

Leaving Bognor 9.30 am – returning 18.30 pm. Times to be confirmed

This is for a minimum of 30 passengers. Please contact Bill Page for more details.

Email billandflop@hotmail.com Tel: 07971 828 025

Find out about Hever Castle at www.hevercastle.co.uk

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Here's another fascinating tale of a strategic naval battle many years ago, from Brian

The Battle of Copenhagen - 2nd April 1801

British Warships attack Danish Fleet in Harbour

For this month's anniversary, you need to recall that during France's Revolutionary Wars with Britain, between 1793 – 1802, the Royal Navy maintained world-wide economic blockade of France and its fleets.

British naval vessels captured or destroyed French merchant vessels and fought the warships sent to protect them and, by using a wide definition of "war materials", did, in the long run, serious and lasting damage to the French economy.

The British blockade largely prevented French imports of products like food and raw materials, as well as the export of French manufactured goods, greatly hindering France's industrial revolution. British entrepreneurs generally thought this was a good thing but, in the meantime, neutral merchant fleets sought to profit by carrying French goods under their flags. Neutrals resented British searches, confiscations and enforced sales.

Northern European neutrals, as well as the new United States of America, got fed up with British blockades and Russia, Sweden, Prussia and Denmark together announced a "League of Armed Neutrality" designed to limit or stop them, and insist on their vessels trading unmolested, to resist with naval force if necessary, all British attempts to restrict their trade.

The British government promptly dispatched a Baltic Fleet, commanded by Admiral Hyde Parker, with Horatio Nelson in HMS *Elephant* as second in command, to deprive the league with the means to do so. But the Russian navy – too small and too east - was discounted, for the moment.

The Danish Royal Navy at Copenhagen, larger, more modern and courageously manned, was thought to be the nearest and most immediate threat to Britain's so far successful naval policy. So, in what these days would be called a pre-emptive strike, Britain's Baltic Fleet attacked the Danish vessels moored beneath Copenhagen's heavy coastal batteries and, in "line of battle" outside the capital's naval dockyards. Some of the Danish ships were under maintenance, largely unrigged and immobile, but could be replenished with volunteers, food and ammunition from ashore. The fighting was prolonged and fierce with heavy casualties on both sides. Seven British bomb vessels like HMS *Explosion* fired mortars and rockets ashore, causing civilian casualties.



Picture shows the Danes on the left without masts and sails and the British on the right. The boatloads of , loarsmen in the bottom right hand corner are British, on their way to tow off the seven British ships that have run aground like HMS *Agamemnon*.

It was now that Nelson turned a practically blind eye to Admiral Parker's permissive signal to withdraw – an event certainly reliably eye-witnessed – and probably agreed beforehand with Parker to give Nelson away to withdraw honourably if unsuccessful, not forgetting that Admiral Byng had been shot for cowardice only forty-four years previously. Perhaps Nelson, aware as always of his public image, just intended to indicate memorably that he thought the job could be successfully finished. He had skillfully identified a deep-water channel to get close enough to the main Danish fortress to bomb it. Later, Nelson went ashore and, anxious to avoid further casualties, negotiated a humanitarian ceasefire and an acceptable Danish surrender.

Accounts vary, but over two thousand Danish and British seamen had died, with many more injured or captured. Nelson was then sent to Reval, on the Gulf of Finland, to deal with the Russian fleet but, before he arrived, Tsar Paul had been assassinated and the League disbanded. A significant threat to a vital British strategy had been successfully, and expensively, averted. B

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Chris Linford is being co-opted onto the Committee as Social Secretary. He plans to set up a Facebook page for Arundel Probus Club and that will involve occasional photos of members and friends at meetings or other events. Similar images will be included in future Website pages. All this is intended to attract more members. chrislinford@villahelios.co.uk

If anyone objects to their images being used in this way would they please inform Chris. In the absence of objection from you by the end of April it will be assumed that you have none.



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Your committee
wishes you a
Happy Easter,
and so do I.
Bob



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