

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

1st AUGUST 2023

Issue No 41

Glorious Goodwood starts today. This is one of the highlights of the flat-racing season and takes place at “the most beautiful course in the world”, if the weather is kind. (If not, you won't be able to see the horses.)

We are fortunate to have this on our doorstep, although I haven't been for years. It is certainly something one should visit at least once, just to experience the atmosphere, even if you don't “have a flutter” on the Goodwood Cup. I wonder what it feels like to hold a winning ticket. That's an experience I am leaving rather late in life. Most betting is on-line these days.

Dunlop's racing stables in Arundel closed some years ago and Arundel's bookie has closed too. Hope you pick a winner, if inclined to have a bet.



What's on this month – August ?

August 10th Pub Lunch - The Gribble

We are returning to The Gribble, in the village of Oving, PO20 2PB, for our August Pub lunch. This is a lovely pub at any time of year with its own brewery outside. The menu is below, if you haven't booked already. Hope you can come but be quick now. Send your choices to Bob Tanner bobtanner1809@gmail.com 882127 and pay by BACS into Arundel Probus Club Business Account A/C No 10642681 Sort Code 20-20-62. Mark payment Augpublun

Price £23, includes £1 staff tip.

- | | |
|----------|--|
| Mains | A Chargrilled Breast of Chicken , Parsley Mash, Roast Shallots, Pink Peppercorn Cream Sauce |
| | B Smoked Haddock Fish Cake , Chorizo Cassoulet, Wilted Herb Salad |
| | C Haystack Burger – Beef Patty, BBQ Pulled Pork, Bacon, Cheese, Skinny Fries |
| Desserts | D Pimms Fruit Salad , Vanilla Sorbet |
| | E Dark Chocolate Brownie , White Chocolate Sauce |
| | F Summer Fruit and Apple Crumble , Crème Anglaise |

August 24th Regular club meeting at the White Swan Hotel - 11.00 start

Our Speaker will be Angela McCaskill of the HSBC Bank and her subject is **Fraud**, something we are all too aware of these days. No doubt Angela will tell us some frightening stories but give sound advice for our own protection.

Fraud is defined as intentional deception to secure unfair or unlawful gain, or to deprive a victim of a legal right. Fraud can violate civil law or criminal law, or it may cause no loss of money, property, or legal right but still be an element of another civil or criminal wrong. On-line fraud is the most common nowadays but there are other forms. We've always been wary of the stranger at the door. I find it necessary to question every statement, claim, offer or promise but it's not easy. We didn't know the word “scam” barely a few years ago but it's become our watchword.

I strongly recommend you attend this talk. Lunch menu choices to follow.

President's Report

We had an excellent turnout at the 13th July Pub lunch at the Ship and Anchor with 27 attending, plus 2 “no shows”. Our hosts looked after us with their excellent home-cooked meals.

Couple of weeks ago I met John Ives at Highdown garden centre, a former member of Probus who some of you may recall. He is keeping well and sends his best wishes to all those who remember him. David.

.....

Independence Day, USA

Last month I asked the question, Which were the 16 US colonies that signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776? My US contact has provided the answer, and some clarity.

There were, in fact, 13 British Colonies that declared themselves independent American States in July, 1776. This was then put to the vote to approve the Declaration of Independence and 12 voted in favour with one abstention. That was New York, possibly because the British Fleet was anchored in New York Harbour at the time and threatening to attack! There were also many loyalists living in the city.

August 2nd, 1776 is noted as the date by which all the colonies and their delegates had signed the Declaration, including New York which had abstained the vote the month before. Maybe the British had sailed on to Philadelphia by then, suggests my American friend. Philadelphia was where Thomas Jefferson had written the Declaration.

Officially, the votes of the original 13 American States were not fully ratified until 1790 and three more states were added after 1791 - which maybe where the number 16 came from. I hope that's all clear now! Thanks Dan.

Those 13 states were New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

.....

Hole in One

One day, when that great American golfer of Mexican heritage, Lee Trevino, was in his prime, he was mowing his front lawn when a lady driving a shiny new Cadillac pulled up alongside. “Excuse me. Do you speak English?” she asked. “Yes Mam,” says Lee.

“What do you charge to do gardening work?” demanded the lady. “Nothing”, replied Lee, before adding “but the lady of the house let's me sleep with her”. The Cadillac sped away.



I woke up this morning determined to eat and drink less and to exercise more, but that was four hours ago when I was younger and full of hope !

.....

A perfect summers day is when the warm sun is shining, a gentle breeze is blowing, the birds are singing and the lawn mower has broken.

.....

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could experience heavy breathing again.

www.arundelprobus.club

If you have not visited our website lately, or never have done, do take a look as it has just been updated by our Webmaster and compares very favourably with those of other local clubs, in my opinion. Let me know what you think. How could it be further improved?

Son of a late member, Ian Finch is our very helpful Webmaster and lives in Thailand. He adds the latest Arundel Probus Times each month and updates the site from time to time. He has just done so again so "Thank you, Ian". - I hope he can hear me !

Arundel Festival of the Arts

www.arundelfestival.co.uk

This year's Festival runs from 18th to the 28th August and there's something for everyone. Highlights include Shakespeare's Twelfth Night on 18th and 19th in the grounds of Arundel Castle. (www.arundelcastle.org for tickets.)

For those of you brave enough, you may like to take a ride in a Ferrari, Porche, Maserati etc, driven by their owners as the Sporting Bears Dream Rides return again this year. All money raised goes to charity.

For those less brave you can take a ride around town in a TukTuk. (Having done this, you do need to be even braver.)

Do go and support (as if he needed it) our member John Barkshire who is giving three talks - on the History of St Nicholas's Church, its Stained Glass Windows and the National Memorial Arboretum.

As for me, I'll be helping prepare for Arundel's traditional annual Flower and Produce Show (2.00pm – 4.00pm on 28th in the Arundel Football club hall on Mill Road.) Entry is free, both for those entering any of the 38 classes and for the general public wanting to admire the impressive entries. There's even a class for Wonky Veg this year. Good luck ! Let me know if you need help.

If you are planning to meet for the Early Birds swim at 6.30am in Arundel's lovely Lido, I won't be there.

Members' birthdays (where known) this month, August. Send a "Happy Birthday" message; they're always nice to receive.

Michael Weaver 25thjunovicarage@hotmail.com

John Barkshire 31stjbarkshire19@gmail.com

"The important thing to remember is that I'm probably going to forget." We forget to say that often enough.

Wimbledon 2023. Did you enjoy the tennis again this year? Did you manage to get there and is your neck still sore? There were more unpronounceable names, let alone names one can spell, so I'm not going to try.

Brilliant though he is, I had got fed up with Djokovic winning everything. I thought he was actually one of those new-fangled AI robots, programmed to beat every opponent whilst looking like *homo sapiens*.

Then along came Carlos, like a much-needed shower of rain after a prolonged drought. I miss Federer, Murray at his best and of course Nadal, but most of all I miss Sue Barker. Love all.



Can you complete this? Add the missing nationalities.
Ladies Singles Final. Abeat a Spaniard. Men's Singles Final. A Spaniard beat a.....



Wise before the event

I put an old fridge-freezer on the pavement outside with a note saying "Free". It was still there a week later so I changed the note to "£50". It was gone next day.

On a similar theme, a friend put a rickety old table outside his smallholding in France with surplus vegetables, a few strawberries, eggs and an honesty box. The only thing taken overnight was the table.

Festival of Speed – cancellation

No-one invited the wind to the Festival of Speed at Goodwood last month but it turned up anyway with winds speeding to well over 50 mph. The event had to be cancelled on the Saturday for fear of tents, awnings, marquees, hoardings and a few spectators ending up in East Sussex.

There was a nice statement from the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. Thank you, your Grace, and thank you Gordon.

The event resumed on the following Sunday and some of those super-quick cars just blew me away.



..... poor taste, sorry ! But thanks for submitting it.

Without freedom of speech, we wouldn't know who the idiots are!"

Tempus fugit

Someone mentioned something that happened thirty years ago and my mind went "Ah yes: The seventies" but they meant 1993 and now I need to lie down.

I'm still trying to come to terms with the fact that the expression "Take out" can mean food, dating or murder.

Schools just out for millions of British children but it's now August and the weather has turned. Autumn starts earlier nowadays. When will the UK authorities realise that children don't have to help with the harvest anymore and should have been let out weeks ago when the weather was much better?

Our schoolchildren were still stuck inside school, labouring over end-of-year exams in hot classrooms as their French counterparts were outside having fun in the best of the weather.

The French got the idea a long time ago and most French schoolchildren break up for their long summer vacation at the beginning of July when the weather is normally at its best. They return to school in late August when the days are getting shorter and nights longer. Meanwhile British children are having to dodge the thunderstorms and heavy rain showers on the beach or campsite.

Perhaps they don't mind. They have their phones to stare at all day.

Note. The timing of French school holidays depends in which of three Regions the school is located.

Wordle and Spellbee

Are you doing your mental gymnastics every morning? It certainly helps to get one's brain in gear. I'm referring to the on-line games at the New York Times website www.nytimes.com/games It's called Wordle. You get six chances to find a five-letter word and it's free! It's also mesmerising and can easily become addictive, especially if you also do their other game called Spellbee, a Spelling Bee Challenge, which is also free. You are given seven letters from which you make as many words as you can, minimum four letters and always including the day's central letter. You learn the Spellbee results the following day and, perhaps like me, you will never have heard of many of the words listed. The spelling is American, of course. The Wordle word can be shown on the day if you give up trying or fail to find it.

With Spellbee, if you can find a word with all seven letters then you have found a pangram and win extra points. There is a daily points total as your target. Yesterday's target was 332 points and 59 words. The letters were CEIMNPS and the pangram SPECIMENS (You can use each letter more than once). I thought I was doing well having stretched my brain to find 31 words but only reached half the total points score. Oh well, there's always tomorrow.

Why not try it if not already hooked?



Hils Angel

Hilary couldn't wait to get on the Blood Bike before **Hartley Elder** gave us a detailed explanation of the work done by **SERV Sussex**, better known as **the Blood Bikers**.

A team of volunteers provides an invaluable service, exclusively to the Sussex Hospitals Trust, by delivering blood and blood products, such as plasma, between hospitals in Sussex as well as v#other locations.

The volunteers work only at night and are on call 365 nights of the year. Most are motorcyclists with a few driving SERV vehicles. Use of their own machine or vehicle



is permitted but strict tests have to be passed before acceptance into the team.

Our other photo shows Hilary persuading Helen to jump on board. Hartley, Hills and Helen. What a team that would be.

Thanks to Hartley for the great job he does and for coming to tell us about it.



What's on next month, September? (Can't believe it will soon be September).

Pub Lunch 14th September

Arun View pub, Littlehampton. Thanks to Ian Goodall.

Regular meeting 28th September Speaker Ian Goodall

"Glorious Gannets of the Bass Rock"

(Let's call it the Ian Goodall month!)



Probus 2024

I know it is still eight months away but I thought it useful to inform the club that two or three members will "retire" from their club duties at the AGM next year so we need to be sure we have replacements lining up.

Particularly important is the role of Treasurer which Charlie Meggs has been for several years, with great credit.

David Tippett has stated that he will give up the Hotel Liaison role at the same time.

The club now has a five-year max rule for Cttee membership. Richard Brennan has been Secretary for (?) ten + years and deserves a break, although he has not indicted his intentions yet.

We have an excellent club at the moment and its smooth-running is largely down to six Cttee members and a couple of others. I am confident we will find successors to fill the gaps for 2024/2025 and continue our upward path.

With best wishes to all who have read this far. Bob