



A very MERRY CHRISTMAS to you and your family from President David and your Committee. It's not long now to the Christmas Lunch on Thursday 14th. We hope all those attending have a truly memorable time.

It's been a very good year for Arundel Proboscis. We end 2023 with a healthy bank balance and more members than we started the year with. Most of the new intake already have a good attendance record and we are seeing more wives attending meetings and lunches. We also have two lady members now and would welcome more. This all augers well for the future, don't you think ?

Pub lunches have been fun and mostly well-attended. Only The Gribble was disappointing, especially for those who had ordered chicken. Any member may organise a pub lunch and unless someone does there will simply not be one. There is no Pub Lunch in January. It would be a shame to lose this popular monthly get-together. Just let Chris know if you want to organise one. Chris Mayhew <chrisgmayhew@me.com>

We had ten talks during 2023, four of which were by our own members, and a fifth was free. Do you remember them all? Fore-edge painting, Martin Frost; Living in France, Tim Jowitt; Riding it Out, Pam Goodall; Antarctica, Duncan Lavin; D-Day and the RN, Brian Arthur; Blood Bikers, Hartley Elder; Fraud, Angela McCaskall of HSBC; Gannets, Ian Goodall; Taxi, Dave Pidoux and The Art of Variety, Brian O'Gorman last week. Which did you like best and which not-so? Will you give us a talk next year?

The AGM next April will, I believe, see a changing of the guard as Charlie Meggs wishes to relinquish the Treasurer's job and Richard Brennan deserves a break after 10+ years as Secretary. David Tippett will also stand down as Hotel Liaison officer. Where are the new officers coming from? Time will tell. Are you one?

Brian Arthur is due to be elected as our new President and Stephen Brocklebank is standing as VP. That means IPP Barry Hopkins will come off the Committee after a three-year stint.

We have had only one resignation during the year but half a dozen members have been absent for some time, due mainly to health concerns. We wish them all improved health in 2024.

.....and a very Happy New Year to you and yours.

You can tell Christmas is coming because the "oh da parfum" adverts are back on the telly. Whatever happened to scents and fragrances, or even perfume? (You can also tell I'm getting old!)

I invited some of our Hon. Members to contribute to this end-of-year newsletter.

From our Honorary Member, John Monroe, who's clearly having fun:-

"Greetings from the City of Chichester, West Sussex's County Town, to where I moved a year ago, to an Abbeyfield. A kind of club where I rent a large room overlooking the garden and enjoy two meals a day, in the company of ten lovely ladies. I'm the only man - there is a vacancy, so do come and join me!

Merry Christmas - John"

and Joe Hayes's piece follows.

"I come from a culture where there are two obligatory family gatherings each year. Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Cancer prevented me travelling in October to the US to meet a recently discovered, not as yet met, cousin, Peter and wife Sasha.

Undeterred, my family rose to the challenge. Peter & Sasha flew to London from Boston on 15th November.

My daughter organised a full day gathering of my three children, their spouses and all eight of my grandchildren to meet Peter and Sasha.

A typical English roast beef lunch, afternoon tea and just sitting about chatting and getting to know our new American cousins.

A never to be forgotten gathering, and all of the UK family Christmas wishes carried back to the US. Joe"

PANIC

My car keys were not in my pocket. Suddenly I realised I must have left them in the car. Frantically, I rushed into the car park. My husband has scolded me many times for leaving the keys in the car's ignition. He's afraid the car could be easily stolen.

As I searched around the car park, I realised my husband was right. The car was not in the car park and had obviously been stolen so I immediately called the police, told them my name and address and that our car had been stolen. I had stupidly left the keys in the ignition. They were not impressed but said they would get on to it right away.

I waited awhile then plucked up courage to make that difficult call to my husband. I told him what had happened, crying as I did so. There was a long silence but then I heard his voice. He was not at all angry and simply said..... "You're wrong. I dropped you off at the supermarket an hour ago. Remember?"

Now it was my turn to fall silent until I whimpered "Can you come and get me please?" "Yes, I will" he shouted. "As soon as I can convince the two Police officers at the door that I didn't steal the damn car which is parked on our drive."



Nineteen people attended the Pub Lunch on 9th November at the Ship and Anchor, Ford, the last lunch before the publicans' Joy and Paul's retirement. Val Belton presented Joy with a bouquet of flowers. Thanks to Dave Pidoux for the organisation.

This was also the last lunch with John Haynes who has now emigrated to join his family in South Africa. John has been a loyal, helpful and popular club member for years with an excellent attendance record and we shall miss him. John was handed a Bon Voyage card, signed by everyone present.

A son took his Dad to church one Sunday. Dad moaned all through the service. His seat was uncomfortable, the church was cold, the singing was dreadful, the sermon was too long, etc. When the collection plate came round Dad put a five pound note on the plate.

As they left, Dad continued to moan, so the son replied "Come on Dad, you must admit it wasn't a bad gig for only a fiver."

November 23rd Club meeting

Andrew Lubienski was my guest at the last meeting. He is Vice Chairman of BR Pobus Club, a men-only club formed in 1980. They meet monthly in Felpham for lunch with an afternoon speaker.

Andrew and I have an idea to organise a joint Pub Lunch next year, probably on our patch and The White Swan and The Spur have been suggested as possible venues. The Committee likes the idea so watch this space. It would be nice to meet with our Probus neighbours.

We also had two other visitors, a guest of Michael Weaver whose name I missed and Lesley Beale, recently moved to the area, who professed to being keen to join our club. Welcome aboard Les.

The November meeting was well attended and we all enjoyed Brian O’Gorman’s talk on “The Art of Variety”. Stepping in at the last minute, due to the indisposition of the scheduled speaker, Brian traced the history of British music hall and the influences of American vaudeville upon it. Members knew almost every performer from the “good old days” that Brian mentioned and asked many questions which Brian was pleased to answer. There were several encores at the bar later.

Brian is a gifted performer and he is a speaker we shall invite back again next year.



Remembrance Sunday

Vice President Brian Arthur, in winter plumage, did a sterling job on 12th November when he laid our club’s wreath at Arundel’s Memorial. “A fine job, Sir”, to be repeated next year as President, no doubt.

The Arundel “Remembrance Sunday” ceremony was, amongst countless others, part of a long British tradition. It began on 11th November 1919 as “Armistice Day” to commemorate the ceasefire which had ended fighting on that day the year before, not only on and over the Western Front in France, but also at sea and on other battlefields.

Services were held on that date all over the country and in much of the then British Empire, including from the beginning, a minute’s silence to remember the more than 900,000 British and Empire service personnel killed since August 1914, during the First World War.

For this first year, George V attended a service at Buckingham palace, but by November 11th 1920, the newly completed Cenotaph in Whitehall became the centre of a national occasion, with, from then on, a two-minute silence. George V laid the first national wreath of “Flander’s Poppies” first recorded in Lt Col McCrae’s poem. Originally called “Armistice Day”, the day’s name was changed in 1931 to Remembrance Day to be held on the nearest Monday to 11th November each year until 1939.

In 1946 the Government decided that the name and day should change to Remembrance Sunday, now to include thought for the 454,700 British military personnel and civilians killed during the Second World War. Since then, it has also recalled the deaths of British and Commonwealth service people sadly lost in every year but one since 1945. Nowadays, many people remember on both November 11th and on the second Sunday in November, when, hopefully, Arundel Probus Club will continue to be represented every year. BA

Recent news, or non-news.

- Lake Lane, Barnham is flooded.
- The village of Fishponds, near Doncaster, is under water.
- The Waterside Restaurant is closed for business until further notice.
- The Angler pub is open for business, but upstairs only. You can fish from the windows.



River Arun

It does involve climbing a lot of stairs to get here but, from my lofty perch above Arundel, I have a splendid view across the plain to the sea at Clymping. It's a flood plain really and the very wet weather of late confirms that. Flood water on fields between the A27 and A259 traced out the likely courses of the river before realignment and dredging; a bit like the Nile Delta in miniature. Luckily, the river has not yet burst its banks here but the water on the fields has nowhere to go. Lake Arundel had arrived but was nowhere as large as Lake Pulborough, just over the hill.



The present course of the River Arun is not its original, or only, course as a major tributary was dredged long ago in order to make it navigable from the sea to Arundel. Arundel then became a bustling port which allowed trading across the channel and elsewhere. The Arundel – Honfleur route was much favoured by travellers: perhaps the Dover-Calais crossing of olden times. Arundel soon developed a ship-building and repair industry as there was no shortage of timber from the great forests of Sussex. I understand that Sussex timber was used at the Chatham Naval Dockyards to build men-of-war in Nelson's time so our county's wood could have helped at the Battle of Trafalgar. The huge Sussex logs were hauled overland all the way by large teams of oxen. It took so long that the timber was virtually seasoned by the time it reached its destination. Later on, timber barges on the new canals replaced oxen. One horse could pull more than a dozen oxen could, and faster too.

The River Arun has a long and fascinating history and I am indebted to Arundel's historian Mark Phillips for much of this story. (I must get him to come and give us a talk sometime) . Did you know that the town of Arundel was named after the river rather than the reverse, which is usually the case? And the river will continue to give, I am sure. I can envisage some bright entrepreneur finally harnessing the enormous energy that flows four times a day under Arundel's bridges. A hydro-electric installation could probably provide all Arundel's electricity needs, with some spare. I believe the River Arun is the second fastest flowing tidal river in the country, after the River Seven. What a waste.

Storm Ciaran

We were warned but so often even dire weather warnings have turned out to be exaggerated in Arundel. Not this time, and the night of 1st- 2nd November turned out to be the windiest and wettest since the 1987 hurricane. The river Arun had been at its highest level for decades, even before the storm, and the risk of it bursting its banks locally was raised significantly. Already, the farmland south of Arundel showed more under water than not. Pulborough Brooks looked like an ocean when viewed from the top of Bury Hill. It's clear that Arundel remains vulnerable to flooding and if ever there is a named southerly storm, a surge in the Channel, with a seasonal high tide after a prolonged period of very heavy rain, well..... I hope you were not badly affected by Storm Ciaran. My sympathies if you were. In future I will believe all weather forecasts.

Would you like to park your car anywhere, without fear of a parking ticket, or worse? Yes, it is possible. Simply buy your own wheel clamp, park where you want then quietly clip your clamp in place. Parking wardens will assume you have already been done.....(Warning: I haven't tried this myself yet).



Christmas trees went up in Arundel in early November, and very nice they look too, if a tad early. The cost of sending Christmas cards this year has become prohibitive, so the picture above is from me to you with seasonal best wishes. If you are sending me a card this year, please write in pencil.

“It was only a sunny smile,
and little it cost in the
giving,
but like morning light
it scattered the night
and made the day worth
living.”

~F. Scott Fitzgerald

With thanks to Bonnie Newcomb

I had this delicious omlette this morning. I seasoned the eggs with sugar, oil, and chocolate, and threw in a little flour for texture...



After half an hour trying to figure out this crazy haircut, I realized it's a coconut tree behind him.



Has anyone ever lived long enough to buy a second bottle of Worcestershire sauce?

Punny sayings

"The old windmill's working again. We're going round to see it".

Nana and Grandpa are going up in the world. They've had a stairlift installed.

....and other nonsense.

The couple next door have three children; a son and daughter, and the third was born in Middlesex.

2024 Talk Programme

January 25th	Stuart Flitton	- Journalism today
February 22nd	Martin Alderton	- Arundel Walking Tours
March 28th	Bill McNaught	- "William Cody"
April 25th	AGM	- Quiz
May 23rd	John's speaker	- TBC
June 27th	Les Maple	- Audio Description in a Theatre.
July 25th	Dave Pidoux (TBC)	- "Taxi" part 2
August 22nd	Charlie Waring	- Long Hall Pilot reminisces

What's on next month - January?

We do not have a Pub Lunch in January.

The first meeting of the year is on Thursday 25th January at the White Swan hotel. Speaker is Stuart Flitton whose subject is "Journalism Today".

NOTE: The first Pub Lunch of 2024 will be on Thursday 8th February at the Arun View, Littlehampton, kindly organised by Ian Goodall. Details to follow.



Seasonal best wishes from Dian and me. Bob