

# ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

## 1st November 2024

Issue No 56

Sussex has always been well known for its Bonfire Societies, particularly East Sussex. Battle, East Hoathly, Heathfield, Robertsbridge, Rye and Lewes are among the villages and towns with their own group of enthusiasts who plan all year to create amazing outfits for themselves which they then wear in parades at each village's/town's bonfire events around the county. In return, those other societies visit on their special night, a system that requires careful co-ordination to avoid events clashing. The big night, Bonfire Night, on 5<sup>th</sup> November, is always celebrated at Lewes where all the other societies parade together in a flaming torch-lit procession through the town, leading to the lighting of the two or three huge bonfires on the Downs nearby. Today, the celebration seems more popular than ever and is still b..... dangerous.



November 5 commemorates the foiling of a plot to blow up Parliament, killing the King, that could have changed the course of British history. Picture the situation back in 1605, when things were a bit tense — to say the least — between Protestants and Catholics. Guy Fawkes, Catesby and the rest of their Catholic co-conspirators hoped that taking down the Protestant king would allow Catholic subjects to take more control over law-making and other government matters. Fawkes set up explosives as planned — but that's as far as the plot went. One of the conspirators had a friend in Parliament and, unwilling to let the friend die, this person sent his friend a letter, warning him that the fifth of November would probably be a good night to stay home! With the plot foiled and the gang caught red-handed, Fawkes and co suffered horrific tortures before being hung, drawn and quartered. Now, that's still something to celebrate over four hundred years later. Or is it?

---

**The October Pub Lunch** with our neighbours from the Bognor club was another jolly affair. The Arun View in Littlehampton is one of our preferred haunts and they never let us down. Thirty-six members and partners enjoyed good food and company, thanks to organiser Ian Goodall. Ian even introduced me to the resident family of swans on that stretch of the River Arun who welcomed us with a gentle swim past the windows. Proud parents led their six cygnets up river on a rising tide. Apparently, they are very territorial, and woe betide any newcomer who should land on their river. Ian treats them as his own family, and why not. Then the sun came out to make the visit complete. Thanks Ian.

During lunch, visiting Bognor Probus Club President, Andrew Lubienski, announced that a trip to the Christmas Market at Bath on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December has been arranged and there are places available on the coach. Arundel members/partners are invited to join them. The visit includes lunch at the *Double Tree by Hilton*.

Several copies of an explanatory leaflet were handed out containing details and a Reservation Form. The total cost of the trip is £64 per person. To reserve a place, or seek details, contact Colin Greaves at [colingreaves@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:colingreaves@hotmail.co.uk) tel 01243 585094 07548999793 asap.

---

### October Talk by Fran Farrer-Brown

The history of Portsmouth Harbour, for some, may sound a boring subject but Fran brought it to life with her fascinating talk about the harbour's early, pre-Roman, beginnings right up to the present day. There were many anecdotes as she sailed through the centuries which kept her audience attentive. The details were fascinating, ranging from shifting sand bars to the daily tot of grog, or rum, for every seaman regardless of rank. Fran's talk included many photos showing the recovery of the Mary Rose, Nelson's cabin and ships' figureheads, to name a few. I was amazed at the size of the old rum store. Gosh, they did drink a lot of it in those days.

The day's lunch was enjoyed by twenty people, many bravely choosing faggots (probably for the first time in decades) and being pleasantly surprised by their taste. We had three each and two would have been sufficient, but they were delicious and little was left on the plates. My own thanks to Joe and her staff were added to yours

---

### **New Members' Handbook**

The new handbook is now available thanks to Charlie who has done a great job compiling it. It is being distributed by Richard to those who cannot collect it at club meetings. All thirty-two members are on board.

---

### **What's on this month, November?**

#### **Birthdays. I only know of one:-**

Chris Mayhew 10<sup>th</sup> November [chrismayhew@me.com](mailto:chrismayhew@me.com) [Many Happy returns Chris.](#)

---



#### **November 10<sup>th</sup> 11.00am Remembrance Sunday.**

. President Brian is laying the Club's wreath at Arundel's War Memorial. Do join him.



---

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November Pub Lunch, Littlehampton Golf Club**

**12.30 for 1.00 Here's a reminder of the menu.**

#### **MAIN**

BEEF BOURGUIGNON WITH RICE OR MASH

POACHED SALMON, NEW POTATOES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES

VEGETABLE OPTION AVAILABLE

#### **DESSERTS**

APPLE PIE WITH CREAM OR CUSTARD OR ICE CREAM

FRESH FRUIT PLATTER WITH CREAM OR ICE CREAM



---

The only reason I would take up walking is to hear heavy breathing again.

---

**I used to make loads of money at this time of year, clearing leaves from gardens.**

**I was raking it in.**



**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**Regular monthly meeting. White Swan hotel.**

**Speaker Bill McNaught "Sir Charles Chaplin"**

Members will recall Bill's first visit to the club in March this year when he told us all about (the other) William Cody. His talk was very well researched with plenty of interesting photos and pictures. I have no doubt Bill's talk about Charley Chaplin will be no less entertaining. (So sorry I will miss it !)

And do stay for another enjoyable lunch. Bill is. Menu will follow.



---

### **.Goodwood Revival**

One can feel sorry for all those enthusiasts who had bought expensive tickets for a fun weekend at the Goodwood Revival meeting a couple of months ago, only to be soaked to the skin by the heaviest and most prolonged rain of the year. I fear that thousands of cars parked in fields got bogged down in the mud with a long wait before being rescued by tractor. It was even worse for the hundreds in camper vans similarly caught out by the weather. Several of those expensive classics were seen in Arundel later with their lovely paintwork and shiny chrome coated in thick mud.



But, on reflection, should we really feel sorry for them, given that these petrol-head enthusiasts love dressing up and parading in their Frog-eyed Sprites, Renault Alpines, TVRs, Morgans, E-types and Cobras etc and for whom no amount of bad weather will interfere with their enjoyment?

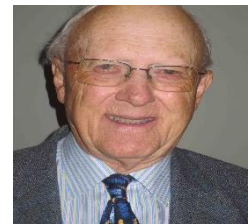
Yes, you're right. I'm envious (or is it jealousy ?) and wish I had bought that Alfa Romero when I had the chance, many moons ago. I wouldn't have noticed the rain nor the mud either and neither would you. Dream on.

---

### **New Member**

The club gave a warm welcome to new member, Chris Linford, a retired School Principal who said a few words by way of introduction. We look forward to getting to know even more about him and meeting Chris's wife Jenny.

Chris and Jenny live in the delightful village of Fittleworth.



---

### **Flying High**

**Exasperated BA Flight Attendant. "People, people. You're not choosing furniture here. Please find your seat and get in it !"**

**On landing, same Attendant announces. "Please be sure to take all your belongings. If you're going to leave anything, make sure it's something we'd like to have".**

**After a very hard landing, an elderly passenger asked the Captain, as she passed him by the exit door. "Did we land or were we shot down ?"**

**Another flight attendant announced, "We'd like to thank you for flying with us today, and the next time you get the insane urge to go blasting through the skies in a pressurized metal tube, we hope you'll think of British Airways".**



**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December    Probus Christmas Lunch/Party   - White Swan Hotel.**



**Everyone's invited to the highlight of the year. 12.00 for 12.30.**

**MENU CHOICES**

**MAINS**

Roast breast of Norfolk turkey, pig in blanket, sage & onion stuffing, mulled wine gravy

Cod and spinach wellington, garlic butter and dill sauce.

Cranberry and chestnut roast, sage and onion stuffing, roast shallot gravy

Red wine and garlic braised pork rib steak

All served with roast potatoes, sauté sprouts, maple roasted carrots and parsnips

**DESSERTS**

Spiced fruit oat crumble, mince pie, ice cream

Christmas pudding, toasted nuts, dried fruits, brandy custard

Chocolate and firebird cake, smashed honeycomb, chocolate sauce, ice cream

Tea / Coffee

**£34 per person, including £2 Christmas tip to staff.**

**Please confirm your attendance (stating number attending) and menu choices to Brian Arthur by November 22nd at the very latest. November 15<sup>th</sup> preferred.    01903 412501    [b.m.j.arthur@sky.com](mailto:b.m.j.arthur@sky.com)**

**PAYMENT BY BACS PREFERRED, TO THE CLUBS BUSINESS ACCOUNT A/C 10642681 SORT CODE 20-20-62. MARK YOUR PAYMENT ChrisLunch CHEQUES CAN BE SENT TO 24, The Roystons. East Preston, BN16 2TR . Write on the back of your cheque what it is paying for. This is so helpful to our Treasurer**

**WHEN ADVISING YOUR CHOICES PLEASE STATE WHAT METHOD OF PAYMENT YOU WILL BE USING.**

**Christmas Day** Please pass the following invitation to anyone you know who may be interested. This has become a regular event each year and is well supported. Perhaps you may like to go yourself.



---

### Advanced Notice

#### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2025 "Fino", Felpham

A "Pub Lunch" has been booked in a very nice Italian restaurant, run by an Italian family with all-Italian food choices. Not a trace of turkey, chipolata, plum pudding or minced pies. We should have had our fill of them by then and may fancy something different. Order your drinks at the table. No draft beers.

First club visit. Full details in December APT. £24 pp incl.

Ciao.



---

Anxious father-to-be is calling the doctor. "She is having contractions every two minutes."  
"Is this her first child?" asks the doctor. "No, it's her husband" came the reply.

---

**So, my neighbour sees me kneeling down, busy in my garden and asks what I'm doing.**

**"I'm putting all my plants in alphabetical order". "Really?! I don't know how you find time!"  
"It's right next to the sage".**

## A Quick Crossword. Answers next month.

- 1 Name the poison that killed Dawn Sturgess
- 2 How many loaves in two Bakers' dozens?
- 3 Where is Nuuk?
- 4 Get your Aquadulce in this month. What is it ?
- 5 Name Capital of Croatia
- 6 What is Cozze?
- 7 Name four Sussex horse racing tracks.
- 8 Which tree is *Quercus robur* ?
- 9 Who is the Foreign Secretary ?
- 10 Who gave a talk to our club this year on "Odours"?
- 11 What were the three ships in Fran's talk last month ?
- 12 What is the County Town of Kent ?
- 13 Which car company produced the Anglia and Cortina?
- 14 Where is the Golden Gate?
- 15 Who sang "A Whiter Shade of Pale"
- 16 Which bird is *Troglodytes troglodytes* ?
- 17 He died last month and won World's Strongest Man. Who was he?
- 18 I have a florin, half crown and a tanner. How much in today's money?
- 19 What is the date of the first public holiday in 2025?
- 20 Define carte blanche.

- What do you get if you divide the circumference of a pumpkin by its diameter?  
Pumpkin pi.



*Happy Bonfire Night, but stick to Sparklers. They're safer.*

*Bob*

