

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

1st APRIL 2024

Issue No 49

It's Easter again, surely the nicest time of the year with young lambs leaping in the fields, bright spring flowers everywhere and the sun beating down on us as we lay in the meadow. I can dream, can't I ?

It's a busy month for our club as we have the AGM to prepare for and a new Members Handbook to produce. There is a new venue to visit for our Pub Lunch and new arrangements to test for our lunch experience at the White Swan hotel. Then we start a new Probus year again. Yippee !

We won't know the final line-up of the new committee until after the AGM but we do know that Stephen Brocklebank cannot accept the Vice Presidential nomination at this time. Ian Goodall has stepped up and will accept the VP nomination. Thanks Ian and best wishes to Stephen and Christine.

We say a big thank-you to outgoing President David Feist, and to Past President Barry Hopkins who leaves the committee after several years. Treasurer Charlie Meggs will accept the nomination again, whilst looking for help, and so will Richard Brennan, our Secretary. David Tippet is handing over the reins after years of looking after our lunches. Sincere thanks to you, too. Bob Tanner is succeeding David and continuing as Speaker Secretary.

Other nominations for any of these posts, and offers of help. are still welcome. Now, pass me my Easter egg please.



What's on this month ? April

April 1st April Fools Day – watch out! And it's Easter Monday

April 11th Pub Lunch – Denman's Garden, Fontwell (details below)

April 25th Annual General Meeting, White Swan Hotel. There will be no speaker but a Quiz will follow the AGM.

Birthday this month. Swamp him with e-mailed congratulations. He's unlikely to send one to himself.

Richard Brennan 22nd

rbrennan118@btinternet.com



RIP Peter Cole.

Peter was a retired Clergyman and lived in Pulborough with his wife Marian. He was a member for many years and President in 1997/1998. Sadly, Peter left the club just as I joined so I didn't get to know him. Those who did, liked him very much. The club stood for a minute's silence at the March meeting and Secretary Richard read out the eulogy..

Middleton Sports Club (MSC)

Fewer people than normal were able to attend last month's Pub Lunch at the MSC. Was that because of an alleged unfortunate experience a few Christmases ago? I cannot say, but I doubt it. Those of us who did attend had a modest meal and the place to ourselves on a lovely, sunny spring day.

Thanks to Pam and Tim for organising.

AGM Agenda - April 25th

Apologies for **absence** President's welcome, introductory remarks and annual report

President's Award Reports of Officers

Election of Officers and Committee Members for 2024/2025 Induction of the new President

Comments from the floor Quiz – Run by PP David Feist

Lunch arrangements agreed with White Swan hotel from April 2024

- Hotel will continue to offer choices for a two-course lunch (main and dessert). To include meat, fish and vegetarian main course and three dessert choices.
- Meals will be varied and filling with plenty of seasonal vegetables.
- In addition to round tables, one rectangular table will also be laid up for those who prefer.
- The round tables will be laid to seat nine or ten people, the rectangular for four or six.
- Jugs of water and drinking glasses will be on the tables, as usual.
- Hotel to inform Bob Tanner of meal choices at least three weeks before lunch day.
- Club members to notify Bob of lunch choices by the weekend before lunch date, at the very latest. bobtanner1809@gmail.com 01903 882127
- Bob will give hotel the numbers and choices by Tuesday, two days before lunch. Inevitably, there will be late additions/changes but please avoid them if possible..
- Diners have the option to order just one course, a main course, for £ (to be advised by the hotel)
- Hotel will continue to provide complimentary tea/coffee in the dining room.
- Agreed price is £ 24, including tip. Payment to hotel in full on lunch day, as usual.

These arrangements will be reviewed on an on-going basis.

Wicked Little Letters.

I won't lie; this is a F.....ing good film, if you don't mind the swearing. Set in Littlehampton, but filmed mostly in Arundel last year, keen locals enjoyed watching the town centre transformed to the 18th century. Many craned their necks during filming for sight of Olivia Coleman, the principal actor. The streets and pavements were covered with sand to hide any trace of modernity but not all was removed after filming. Some say it was the cause of flooding when the rains came, and gulleys silted up.

There is some disquiet in Littlehampton because Arundel took all the credit for filming the story, based on fact, that has its roots in their town, not Arundel.

Forget all that and make sure you see this excellent film, if you haven't already.

Pub Lunch Thursday April 11th Denmans Garden, Denmans Lane, Fontwell BN18 0SU

This is a delightful garden in Springtime.

Note. To visit garden without a meal costs £7 for seniors.

Menu choices follow, if you haven't ordered yet :-

Mains

Homemade lasagne with garlic bread and salad

Chicken and mushroom pie, crushed potatoes and peas

Ham Egg and Potato Hash

Southern fried chicken burger with fries

Halloumi burger with fries

Vegan Moroccan spiced nut roast with hummus and flatbread

Desserts

Chocolate fudge cake with ice cream

Apple & Blackberry crumble and cream

Lemon meringue pie

Vanilla cheesecake & berries (vegan friendly)

Price £24 to include tip and a walk around the garden after lunch for those who want to and can.

Orders please to Bob Tanner, bobtanner1809@gmail.com 07817 553357 by Sunday 7th April. Please confirm method of payment. The preferred option is by on-line BACS payment to the club's Business Account A/C no 10642681 Sort Code 20-20-62 Mark payment Aprpublun

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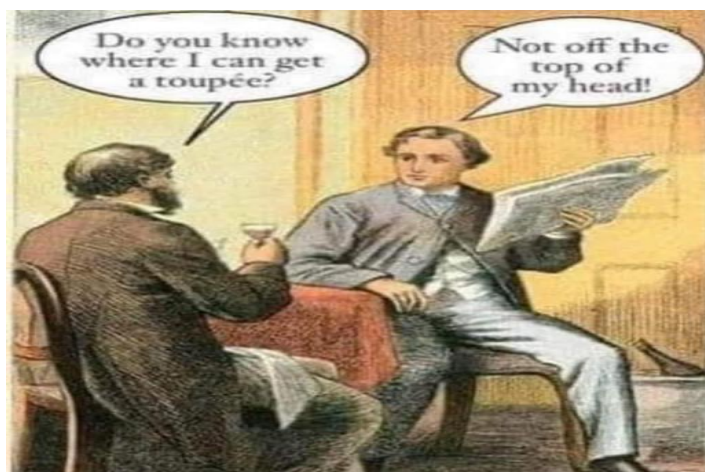
Head teacher, phoning parent "Your child is always causing trouble at school".

Parent "My child is always causing trouble at home but do I ever call you?!"

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Overheard, two young women talking. "My boyfriend says he likes black underwear". "Really, what did you say to that?" "Oh, I was fine with it as I have absolutely no intention of doing his laundry". GH

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Pills for breakfast, pills for tea. Pills for supper. Good gracious me.

Nowadays we are kept going on a diet of pills. We take so many and must surely question if we need them all. Uppers and downers, some for your blood, heart, stomach, kidneys, spleen, lungs, brain or bladder etc. etc.

Some of us rattle when we walk, we consume so many. I bet that, if all the pills consumed in a year by members of Arundel Probus were placed end-to-end, they would reach to Brighton (and back, possibly).



Yet we dare not stop taking our pills (except the blue ones which don't work anymore, and the morning-after pills became redundant decades ago).

And it's such a faff organising one's pills: have I got enough, are they the right sort, where did I put them, should I re-order, will the pharmacy have them in stock (no), has the pharmacy received the promised prescription (not yet)? These are just some of the recurring thoughts of all pill takers. Did I take mine yesterday?

Then there's the other risk that your home-delivered pills will not arrive on time, or not at all. My pills come courtesy of Pilltime – one of the new and no-doubt prosperous, NHS-approved,, pill delivery services. Some arrive still in their manufacturers' boxes which can be difficult to open (particularly if they contain your Arthritis pills). And I always open the wrong end first which contains the wrapped, twelve-page, instruction leaflet that I do not need.

Other pills now arrive in pouches – a huge roll containing a sixty-day supply of pouched tablets which you have to install into a flimsy cardboard box with a slit in it from which you extract your next dose. There are two pouches for each day, helpfully marked "morning" and "bedtime". Ingenious but fiddly.

Now, here's a tip for you: if you ever run out of pills at a critical moment, just ease back your sofa, or bed, and reach underneath. You will find countless dropped pills, in spite of having an otherwise spotless home. Rattle on !

The Zeebrugge Raid: An April Anniversary by Brian Arthur

German efforts to use submarines to blockade Britain during the First World War, came alarmingly close to success. Early chivalries were abandoned, replaced by "unrestricted submarine warfare". Some British reports in 1917 suggested that civilian grain supplies were reduced to six weeks. Food and vital commodities like clothing, candles and paraffin became rationed.

The use of 'Q ships', (disguised, armed decoys), and a legally enforceable, escorted convoy system had led to marked and lasting reductions in merchant ship losses, but the cost in lives and cargoes remained serious. The use of more and better Allied mines had increased U-boat sinkings, but previous attempts to block or bombard German submarine bases had failed due to bad weather, and unco-ordinated planning. But, in April 1918, the Royal Navy decided to try again.

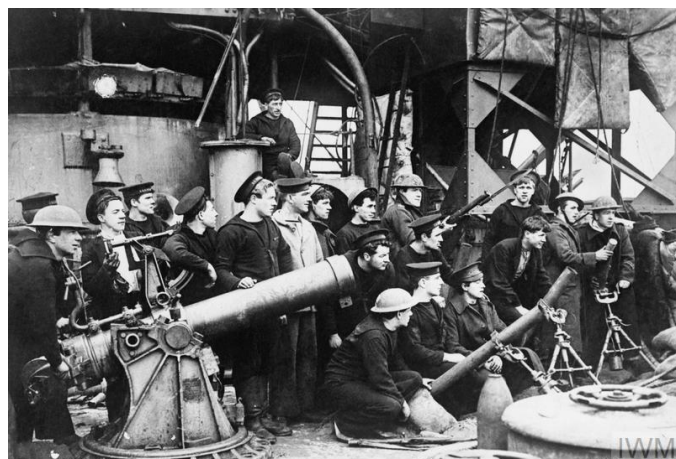
A plan was made to block the Bruges canal giving submarines using Zeebrugge and Ostend in Belgium, access to the sea. Volunteer crews would scuttle obsolescent cruisers HMS's *Thetis*, *Intrepid* and *Iphigenia*, ballasted with concrete, across the channels. HMS *Vindictive*, carrying a battalion of Royal Marines would ram a mole, cutting off German troops and guns likely to interfere with efforts to block the port. Converted Mersey ferries *Daffodil* and *Iris* would carry additional troops.

Postponements moved the date to 23rd April – St Georges Day. But poor weather, bad security and poor intelligence combined to make the raid a costly failure. *Vindictive*, heavily engaged by German gunners, rammed the mole in the wrong place, and only two of the blockships reached the channels. After a week's dredging, the same number of U-boats could again reach the sea at high tide. 227 British lives had been lost, with at least 356 wounded. After several *postponements*, even the date had been a coincidence, more pragmatism than patriotism.

But paradoxically, British newspapers greeted a qualified success, with eight Victoria Crosses celebrating undoubted courage. The raid's senior planner, Rear-Admiral Roger Keyes was knighted. And, with the German's Spring offensive on land causing great concern in Britain and France, and with their Russian ally newly defeated, an energetic and imaginative effort to do something about the "undersea menace" seems to have provided a timely lift to morale in Britain. BA



HMS Vindictive, ramming the Mole



Survivors

The March of Time

A group of guys, all turning 40, discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses had great figures and wore mini-skirts.

Ten years later, at age 50, the friends once again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the waitresses were attractive, food was good and the beer excellent.

At age 60, the friends again discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because there was plenty of parking, they could dine in peace and quiet with no loud music, and it was good value for money.

Ten years later, at age 70, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because the restaurant was wheelchair accessible and had a toilet for the disabled.

At age 80, the friends discussed where they should meet for lunch. Finally, it was agreed that they would meet at Wetherspoons in Uxbridge because they had never been there before. TJ

Sounds like the making of Uxbridge Probus Club. (Ed.)






March Speaker

With an audience of nearly thirty, including two new members, visiting speaker Bill McNaught from the Seaford Probus Club gave a fascinating, illustrated talk about Samuel Codey, a larger than life character who crammed so much into his short life – he died at 46 when his home-made plane crashed.

Characters like Samuel don't exist nowadays so the talk was all the more interesting and Bill also told a lot about life in the US and the UK in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. We will have Bill back again later in the year, probably in November.

Speaker Programme - next six months

- April 25th AGM - Quiz (Bring pen or pencil to write with).   
- May 23rd Andrew Warren - "The Mysteries of Aroma"
- June 27th Les Maple - Audio Description in the Theatre
- July 25th Dave Pidoux (TBC) - "Taxi" part 2
- August 22n O'Malley (Steve Wiltshire) - Street artist working around Arundel
- September 26th "Tax, Care and Toy Boys" Lisa Lumsden for Co-op Estate Planning

Google says "Don't worry about spelling. There will always be autocorrect". For that I am eternally grapefruit.

"Why have you sent my child home?" (Angry parent of junior school pupil). "Because he was peeing in the school swimming pool." (Replies teacher). "Oh, come on. All small children do that. It's the cold water." (Argues parent). " Not off the top diving board, they don't". (Replies teacher).



"We've been together for 250 years and it don't seem a day too much. I wonder how the acorns are doing."

What's on next month? May

May 9th Pub Lunch . The Lamb, Angmering Organised by Les Beale and Chris Mayhew.

May 23rd Regular Monthly Meeting, White Swan Hotel. Speaker. Andrew Warren "Mysteries of Aromas"

Did you remember to put your clocks one hour forward ?.

Best wishes, and a Happy Easter. Bob

