

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES JANUARY 2026

Issue No. 70 - **Bumper edition**

Happy New Year



A new year dawns, full of new opportunities, new experiences and new challenges but mostly with not much different from the year just passed. Your Committee is working hard to bring you more interesting speakers, tasty meals and visits to some of the lovely pubs in our area. This APT will continue - and has room for your contributions! As for a new year's resolution: why not attend Probus meetings more often?

There's an opportunity for a mid-summer canal boat cruise, with a cream tea during the afternoon voyage. Details below. Make a note in your new diary now.

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The Christmas Festive lunch was enjoyed by thirty (members and their partners), seated at five round tables. The food was good and nicely served by Joe and Monica, with some help. The room looked amazing; very festive indeed. **There are several photos below.**

Thanks to President Ian for organising the event, for his round-up of the year's events and the gifts of his 2026 Gannet calendars. The raffle, run by David Feist, was fun, ensuring that every table had a winner. The prizes were clever 3-D pictures, made of natural materials by Karen Keys, a friend of Ian. **Visit Karen on Facebook, or Insta, or email her at keyscrefts20@gmail.com to learn more.**

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The January Pub Lunch is at Fino, the Italian restaurant, on **Thursday 15th January, 12.00 for 12.30**. Not actually a pub but a nice place to eat something different after all the traditional fare around Christmas and the New Year. The date has been put back a week to help recovery !

Fino, Flansham Lane, Felpham. PO22 6AA 12.00 for 12.30. Cost £23 pp.

Details were contained in the December newsletter and some people have already ordered. Here are the menu choices again, in case you haven't.

MAINS

- Cozze - Mussels with tomatoes, mixed herbs and chillies, served with Italian bread or fries.
- Pollo Milanese - Pan fried chicken breast in breadcrumbs served with spag-pomodoro or fries.
- Lasange - Served with garlic bread.
- Risotto al Funghi - Mixed mushroom risotto with parmesan and truffle oil.

Desserts

- Gelato - Selection of ice cream with an orange and polenta biscuit
- Fino Tiramisu - Macari's family recipe
- Fino Sticks - Fino sticks with a chocolate and caramel dip with vanilla ice cream

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

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

Last day for ordering is Sunday 11th January.

Important Notice: The FINO restaurant offers additional food items, or sides. Should you want anything extra, you can order it on the day and it must be paid for by you – on the day.

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**The first Club Meeting of the new year is on Thursday
22nd January at the White Swan Hotel .**

Our speaker is from the Sussex Audiology Centre and will bring us up to date with the latest aids to counter hearing loss. There should be another good turnout at this meeting as many of our members and partners probably experience poor hearing, as time ticks by. (You can still come if you don't as you may do one day). Speaker Flyer to will follow.

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Beware a new Amazon Scam. My son ordered some jewellery for his wife for Christmas but motorcycle parts arrived instead. Luckily, they fit his bike.

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January Birthdays – that I am aware of. They'd all love to hear from you.

Charlie Meggs - It's today, 1st January - and he's still the youngest ! Send him congratulations.
cfmeggs@outlook.com Happy Birthday Charlie.

David Tippett - 12th January Happy Birthday David. dave.tippett@btinternet.com

Barry Hopkins – 17th January Happy Birthday Barry. barhopkins@aol.com

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Which films do these quotes come from? Kindly compiled by Stephen. Answers below.

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Frankly, I don't give a damn. | 6 You're going to need a bigger boat |
| 2 Here's looking at you kid. | 7 If you build it, he will come |
| 3 I'll have what she's having | 8 Houston, we have a problem |
| 4 I'll be back | 9 Life is like a box of chocolates |
| 5 Good morning Vietnam | 10 I'll never let go Jack. |



What is the meaning of these words or phrases ? Put together by Stephen

Answers below

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Abibliophobia | 6 Dead as a doornail |
| 2 Mad as a hatter | 7 Ultracrepidarian |
| 3 Serendipity | 8 Raining cats and dogs |
| 4 Carpe Diem | 9 Hippopotomonstrosesquipedaliophobia |
| 5 Pawn Broker's sign | 10 Elephant in the room |

Due to the really bad weather, I decided to see if my 83 yr old neighbour needed anything from the local shop. She did. So I gave her my list. No point in both of us going out in this weather.

Canal Boat Cruise

A provisional booking has been made for a 90-minute afternoon cruise on the Wey and Arun canal on June 18. (A booking had to be made early as this event is very popular, especially in mid-summer.) A cream tea will be served during the cruise.



Our boat can accommodate 45 seated passengers and is disabled-person-friendly. There's also a toilet on board. The Bognor Regis and Chichester Probus clubs have been invited to join us and both have responded positively. I am sure the boat will be full. The cost per person, to include a cream tea, will be about £22.

It would be useful to know how many from Arundel are likely to go on this cruise so, without commitment, please let me know how many seats you are likely to want. The cruise will begin and end at the Onslow Arms pub in Loxwood and some may like to have lunch at the pub before the cruise. Whether they will still have room for a cream tea is up to them. Lunch is not part of this offering so please make your booking directly with the pub if you wish to have lunch there.

Fuller details about this outing will be given in the APT later in the year when places on board can be secured. You can also state whether you and your partner would like a cream tea.



If I had a pound for every girl that found me unattractive, I would eventually have enough money to become attractive. ANON.

Recruitment

Our club currently has a fairly healthy membership of 32 and most meetings attract about 75% of us. Six or seven partners are also regular attendees and even more sometimes join us at pub lunches.

We are not a large club and it is difficult to believe we once had 55 members, plus a waiting list.

It would be nice to have more members so why not let's have a recruitment drive in this new year and try to attract a few more men and women to join us.

Our partners who attend regularly could be offered full membership, and pay a reduced Membership fee annually with their husband/ partner. Joint Membership in fact. The committee would welcome comments on this idea to aid a discussion before any decision is taken.

Some may question what benefits come with Joint Membership as our ladies are already attending when they want, without charge. At a time when women nationally are rightly fighting for equal rights, our members' partners do not have equality with their husbands or partners in our club. They cannot vote at AGMs, or stand for office, and have little say in club activities. The other potential benefit from granting Joint Membership is to the club itself which would have additional full members and a modest extra income. Wives and partners joining the club would, for example, pay only 50% of the current annual fee, making Joint Membership £60 per annum.

I fully understand that this is not an easy issue to resolve but I also know that Joint Membership works successfully in other similar clubs locally and could do so at Arundel Probus.

It should be remembered that members' subscriptions are the only source of income and are crucial for the club's continuing success. (Income from the monthly raffle helps to fund the Christmas Festive Lunch). At the same time, costs are increasing. Good external speakers are charging towards £100 for talks, and room-hire at the White Swan MAY increase in 2026. It is therefore prudent to look for additional income, wherever possible.

Do you know there are only 359 shopping days to Christmas, assuming you also shop on-line, of course?

You can start writing to Santa as soon as you like. He's put his reindeer out to fresh pasture and hosed down the slay so he has more time to read your requests and check your record.



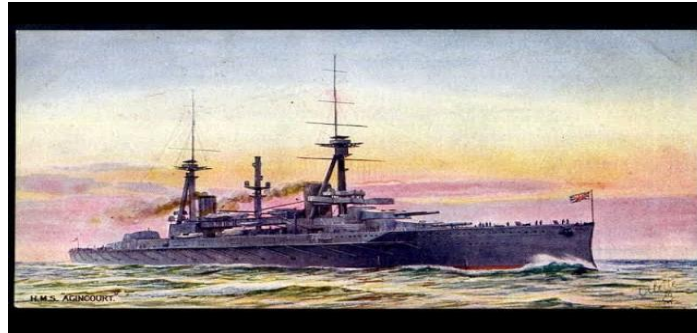
Brian Arthur has kindly written another fascinating account with a naval theme which I am sure you will enjoy.

What's in a name? The Case of HMS Agincourt/Achilles.

Almost a year ago, the King agreed to change the name of one of his warships, the seventh and final 'Astute' class nuclear powered attack submarine under construction at Barrow in Furness. Generally, it is considered bad luck to change the name of a naval vessel once given, but this was urgent. The 80th anniversary of the end of The Second World War in Europe was to fall on the 8th May 2025 and cordial relations with the French at such a time would not be best served by calling a new British submarine after a crushing French military defeat at the hands of the English, albeit one which happened six hundred and ten years previously.



Agincourt was a name used for Royal Naval ships before, but not now. It would have, of course, to be a name beginning with A, so Achilles might fit the bill. When told of their decision, The Royal Naval Warship Naming Committee was prepared to go along with the change, after all HMS Achilles, then of the New Zealand Division, together with the heavy cruiser Exeter and fellow light cruiser Ajax, had successfully caused the scuttling of the German commerce raider Graff Spee in December 1939, at the Battle of the River Plate, so that would be alright. Some curmudgeon might just mention that there had been two ships of that name at Trafalgar - one on each side - when the French ship blew up and sank with heavy loss of life, reference to which might still injure French sensitivities. But both ships had been named in the French form Achille, so perhaps that might not count as a bad omen.



But what about the one originally built in Britain for Brazil, but sold by them in 1913 to the Turks. What for the Brazilians was to have been the Rio de Janeiro became the Sultan Osman Evvel. Then, as the First World War began in 1914, Winston Churchill, as First Lord of the Admiralty, requisitioned the unfinished warship for the Royal Navy. Turkish annoyance at this deprivation contributed to their decision to join Germany and the Central Powers the following year, which many later sent to Gallipoli would have reason to regret. Then, despite the collective memory of Britain's current French ally, the Turkish flagship Sultan Osman Evvel became HMS Agincourt. Being almost twice the size of Britain's original Dreadnought of 1906, and weighing over 30,000 tons, over six hundred and seventy feet long, and capable of 22 knots, it appeared to be a bargain, although its armament was its most remarkable feature. The Agincourt had no fewer than fourteen 12" guns arranged in seven centreline twin turrets, two of which fired over the turret below. These could fire three times in two minutes with a range of 20,345 yards, (over eleven and a half miles), and capable of penetrating 12 " armour plate at four and a half miles. This, together with eighteen 6" secondary guns and another ten quick-firing 12 pounders, made Agincourt the most heavily armed warship then in being anywhere.

Agincourt joined the British Grand Fleet in August 1914. But, at its only action, at the Battle of Jutland in May 1916, it fired 144 12" shells and 111 6" shells, and scored not a single hit, despite the excited claims of those aboard, later disproved. After the war it was unsuccessfully offered to Brazil, and despite farsighted plans for its conversion into an amphibious landing base-ship, it was cut in half to comply with the 1922 Washington Naval Treaty, then sold for scrap. Never popular, the "Gin Palace", with its seven turrets named after the days of the week, was no more. And, as for names, one can never be too careful. BA

February Pub Lunch, Thursday 12th February, at The Fox Public House, Felpham.

President Ian has arranged another joint lunch with the Bognor Regis Probus club at this attractive old pub in Felpham village. The lunch choices are set out below.

MAINS

- Chicken and Leek pie, mash, gravy and peas
- Fish and Chips, Tartare, mushy peas
- Walnut chilli, Braised rice, Guacamole, tortilla chips

DESSERTS

- Sticky toffee pudding, salted caramel ice cream
- Chocolate Brownie, brownie ice cream
- Cheese and Biscuits (**£5 supplement**)

Please inform Ian your menu choices, either by email or on the phone ig@goodall.net 0786 223322 Last date for ordering is 1st February. The cost of this two-course lunch is £25, or £30 if ordering cheese and biscuits. Staff tip included



Let me know if you want copy/copies of these Christmas Lunch photos.



Answers to Film extracts. Which films are they from ?

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Gone with the wind | 6 Jaws |
| 2 Casablanca | 7 Field of Dreams |
| 3 When Harry met Sally | 8 Apollo 13 |
| 4 Terminator | 9 Forest Gump |
| 5 Good Morning Vietnam | 10 Titanic |

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Answers to Words and Sayings

- 1 Fear of not having a book to read
- 2 18C hat makers used Mercury nitrate which caused brain damage
- 3 Horace Walpole 1754, from origin in Sanskrit stories
- 5 Three gold balls thought to originate from 4th century St Nicolas who gave three bags of gold
- 6 Hammering a nail into a door and bending the end over to stop it being removed
- 7 Person who talks about things of which they have no knowledge
- 8 Heavy rain caused dead animals to be washed in the streets. First used by Henry Vaughan
- 9 Fear of long words
- 10 A difficult subject people do not wish to discuss

*I wish you and yours whatever you wish for yourselves in 2026,
and I'll see you soon. Bob*