

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES SEPTEMBER 2026

No 78

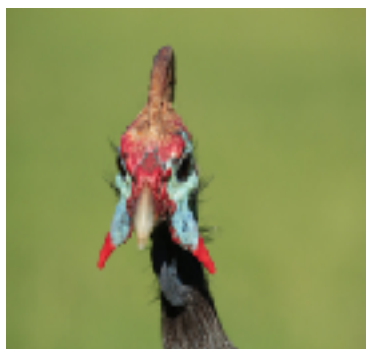
How many heritage steam railway organisations are operating in the UK? I googled this question, just out of interest, and was astounded to find there are 180 to 200. I would have guessed at less than half that. One of the best is the Bluebell Railway which opened in 1960 and now runs from Sheffield Park to East Grinstead. The Railway has one of the largest collections of steam engines, many restored in its own workshops. It's not far from Arundel, either.

Perhaps this is another outing we may be able to arrange in 2027, if there's enough interest. I can't be the only steam train buff in the club, surely..



August Pub Lunch

On one of the hottest days ever in West Sussex, fifteen of us descended on the delightful Black Horse Inn at Byworth, near Petworth. We declined to sit in their lovely garden, where the temperature in the sun surely approached 40C, and sat inside instead. My roast guinea fowl tasted much better when cooked than it looked when alive. They really do have a lovely flavour so I recommend you try it if you are not already familiar with it - and are not a vegetarian, of course. The meal was very good and I believe we all enjoyed it. Service was perfect too.



I must put on record my thanks to Tom, the manager there, who has been so helpful and accommodating, when compared with some publicans. We must return to this pub sometime, perhaps in the depths of winter, on a cold and wet day when a huge log fire burns in the bar area and sitting in the garden is still not an option.

You can see all lunch in the



Guinea Fowl
fifteen of us at
following photo

August Speaker - 27th August, White Swan hotel

Retired Barrister Peter Blood gave us a fascinating account of a famous case from 1943 involving the murder of publican Rose Aida Robinson, found strangled to death in her bedroom in her pub, the John Barleycorn, in Portsmouth. Peter's rich courtroom voice gave gravitas to the events that followed the admission of guilt by Harold Loughans, a layabout and petty criminal with numerous convictions to his name and long periods in jail.

When the case came to court, in spite of overwhelming evidence that Harold had committed the murder to which he had admitted, he changed his mind and pleaded not-guilty. The hung jury agreed with him and he was acquitted. When Peter asked for our verdict, we were split almost down the middle. A unanimous verdict was required to convict in those days and the law of double jeopardy prevented someone being retried for the same offence. The law has since changed.

Even so, there was not one but three court appearances before Harald was eventually found guilty of murder, but that was in a civil court, so he escaped the death penalty. In short, he got away with murder.

I won't report the whole of the amazing story here but much more can be found at www.hampshireconstabularyhistory.org.uk and I recommend you take a look.

The case also revealed the fierce professional rivalry between two famous Pathologists of the time, Sir Bernard Pilsbury and Professor Keith Simpson. (Both wrote interesting autobiographies)

We were still discussing Peter's excellent presentation later, over another very good lunch.



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We welcomed two visitors to our August meeting, **Margaret (Margo) and Peter Bouillon**. Peter said they were pleased to visit another Probus club, having had involvement with a club in Surrey a few years ago before moving to West Sussex. Margo and Peter stayed for lunch and got to meet several members. I am confident we will see them both again soon. I do hope so.

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Future Speakers' Programme to end of year

24th September. Ex-Mayor of Arundel, Tony Hunt, will reminisce after five years in office.

22nd October. Stephen Brocklebank - "My career in the Oil Industry"

26th November Chris Linford. "The Trans-Canadian Railroad"

Now recruiting for the 2027 Talks Programme ! There are 14 members yet to give a talk.

Pub Lunches for the next five months

September. WEDNESDAY 9th. Angmering Manor (See below)

8th October. Worthing Indoor Bowls Club. (Details to follow)

12th November. Littlehampton Golf Club. (DTF)

10th December Christmas Festive Lunch at White Swan hotel.

7th January Fino, Felpham. TBC



My wife sent me a text,
"Your great"

So, naturally, I wrote back,
"No, you're great"

She's been walking around all
happy and smiling.

Should I tell her I was just
correcting her grammer or
leave it?

.....

....and should I point out his spelling error ?



Do you
Stubble

remember
Burning, that

cheap and easy way to prepare fields for ploughing by setting fire to crop residues after harvesting? It was the bane of my life in late summers, as an Environmental Health Officer.

Hundreds of acres of burning stubble caused dense clouds of acrid smoke to engulf rural and semi-rural communities between the Downs and the sea around Brighton until the practice was banned in 1993. Complaints came in thick and fast as soon as fields were lit, especially after a wind change. The scenes of devastating wildfires this year reminded me of that time.

Surely, no farmer would be tempted to stubble burn this year, in the guise of a heatwave fire?!

September Song

In a normal year, September can be the nicest month, weatherwise. The nights draw in and the heat of summer has passed, Cool rain returns and the countryside turns green again. Towards the end of the month, trees become many shades of yellow and gold in their spectacular displays in the autumn sunshine.

But this has not been a normal year, until now ! We started August with daytime temperatures still in the low thirties and there was no significant rain at all. Sandy yellow was the predominant colour in the countryside and many trees had shut down their leaves, to save their lives, weeks ago. Several look dead or dying along the roadsides. But, as I write this - it's raining (because it's the last holiday weekend before Christmas!), so perhaps things are returning to normal after all.

In spite of this extraordinary year and the unrepresented difficulty in growing any food crops in gardens or on allotments, Arundel's annual Flower and Produce Show yesterday attracted the normal number of entries in its forty classes. I think the absence of a hosepipe ban locally had a lot to do with it as most of the fruit and vegetable entries looked splendid and Malcolm Paradine once again stole the show, winning first prize for at least the nineteenth year in succession. He continues to inspire others but also depresses some. How does he grow such wonderful produce even in a year like this?

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Birthdays in September that I know about. If you have a birthday this month that is not recorded here, have a Happy Birthday anyway.

Bob Tanner on the 18th bobtanner1809@gmail.com

David Feist on the 29th davidfeist.1942@gmail.com

September Pub Lunch at the Angmering Manor Wednesday 9th 12.00 for 12.30

Chris Mayhew has asked for the September pub lunch details to be copied here again, and I am happy to do so. We are past the deadline for ordering lunch but any latecomers could contact

Chris for advice. reason for details here is to that lunch is on a and not on a usual.



The main including remind you Wednesday Thursday, as

The amazing price of £22 includes a two-course lunch, plus staff gratuity and a small glass of wine on arrival. Here are the menu choices ::-

Mains

- Grilled chicken supreme, white wine mushroom cream sauce, fondant potatoes and seasonal vegetables
- Grilled seabass fillet, new potatoes and seasonal greens
- Homemade beef lasagne, mixed leaf salad and garlic bread
- Roasted mediterranean vegetable premium locally sourced risotto (V)
- Trio of butcher's sausages – a selection of premium locally sourced sausages, creamy mash, vegetables and finished with red onion gravy,

Dessert

- Chocolate fondant, vanilla ice cream
- Vanilla panna cotta, raspberry coulis
- Strawberry Eton Mess
- Lemon glazed profiteroles, white chocolate dipping sauce

Please send your choice to Chris at chrisgmayhew@me.com or phone 07554 193237 Payment preferred by BACS to club account No 10642681, sort code 20-20-62 quoting. Septpublunch. If paying by cheque to Arundel Probus Club. Please write on back of cheque what payment is for.

ENJOY !

Visit to Tangmere Nurseries on Thursday 1 October at 11.00.

Our visit to Tangmere Nurseries on Thursday 1 October is getting closer and if you would like to go, please email Social Secretary Chris Linford on chrislinford@villahelios.co.uk letting him know that you would like to join him, with perhaps a friend or partner.

For those who want we will then go to the Anglesey Arms in Halnaker for lunch around 1.00pm. Please add this to your email if you are coming to lunch. We will all pay for our lunches as we order.



The deadline for reserving a place is Friday 18 September, so if you are coming, please let him know sooner rather than later.

Chris will then reply and let you know how to get there and any further instructions that are necessary. The site is all on the level, and there is no problem with parking.

Tangmere Airfield Nurseries was built on the old Tangmere aerodrome and provide peppers to the whole of the south of England, and the majority of the supermarkets have their products. It is a large and impressive organisation and the system they use is hydroponics so there is no soil used for the plants. It is an impressive example of how science can transform agriculture.

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NOTE. The committee has decided to renew the Members' Handbook so, if you would like your photo replaced, or if your details have changed, please advise Secretary Brian. The new book will be available from 1st April next, the beginning of the new Probus year.

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I am always on the lookout for readers' feedback but, frankly, there's not much of it. That leaves me wondering if members/readers are content with this APT or are they simply not bothering to tell me otherwise. Do members actually read it and find it useful ? This is the 78th edition and I am planning to get to the hundredth, with your indulgence.

Please let me have some feedback and, even more particular, let me have some copy for inclusion in future editions. Jokes, cartoons, poems, funny stories, anecdotes, recommended speakers, constructive criticisms are all very welcome.

On that last point, I need to apologise again to those whose lunch orders I got horribly wrong in August. Sorry folks.

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Have a very nice, peaceful September, now that the heat of summer has passed.

I hope to see many of you at our monthly pub lunch in Angmering and at the next talk and lunch on Thursday 24th September, at the White Swan hotel.

Best wishes Bob