



Wilmington Axstane Probus Club

NEWSLETTER - October 2024

Our speaker on 31 October is Brian Laverick-Smith and his subject is:

"30 Years of Bother on the Hover" (please see page 4)

Lunch is Liver and Bacon with onion gravy and Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips, followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Ramblings

This morning brought the news that Hazel Nash has passed away. Hopefully you will have been informed of this sad news. I did not know the lady, but I'm sure many of you did.

Unfortunately, I was unable to get to the Committee meeting this week. My grateful thanks to Jack for standing in as Chairman. I was delighted to hear that David Viggers volunteered to be Vice Chairman for the rest of the year. He will then take over from me at the AGM. Well done David!

As always, a reminder that my swansong, the Chairman's Dinner, will be held at Dartford Football Club on **Saturday 29th March 2025**. I look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.

I was very pleased to see that the Chairman's Charity Fund has now exceeded £1000. On behalf of my charities, Mustard Seed Project (Kenya) and Breast Cancer Kent, a big thank you to everyone who has contributed in any way.

As you will hear elsewhere, we are disappointed with the take up for the Quiz Night next month, so be prepared for a big "push" from Colin at our Lunch next week!

Speaking of the Probus Lunch, I must express my appreciation for our Guest Speaker last month, our very own Les Robus. His talk was both entertaining and informative, and was delivered without notes or visual aids. Most impressive Les.

As we approach the time of Remembrance and our thoughts turn to those who gave their lives for our freedom, I must thank David Viggers for stepping in to present the Probus Wreath on Remembrance Sunday. I cannot do this as I will be very much involved in the Ceremony in West Kingsdown as a member of the local British Legion Branch.

Keith

Jokes

I love the Olympics. My Friend and I invented a new type of relay baton: well, he came up with the idea, I ran with it.

My Dad used to say to me "Pints, Gallons, litres", which I think speaks volumes.

Earlier today a cement lorry collided with the getaway van from a bank robbery. The Police say they are looking for five hardened criminals.

Police have found a man lying dead with his face in a bowl of Corn Flakes and milk. They believe it could be the work of a cereal killer.

Arguing with my wife is like reading a Software agreement. In the end you have to ignore everything and just click "I agree".

Just to remind you the chairman's charities are:



Social Committee Report

The take up for the Quiz Night has not been great, but I hope that we can get more at the next luncheon meeting

Les Miserables was a success This appears to appeal to several of our members so we will look at the new year for another, if Phil is prepared to sort it again.

The Autumn Break to Seddlescombe was enjoyed by all. We have been discussing 2025 and it was put that perhaps a trip back to North Walsham might be a good plan, but no decision taken.

Christmas Lunch - menu received, cost £40 pp, more information will be sent out before the next lunch meeting.

The Coffee Morning will go ahead on Wednesday, 6 November 2024, but it WILL ONLY BE A LUNCH GATHERING starting at 12 for 12.30.

The after Christmas Coffee Morning "get together" is scheduled for Wednesday, 8 January 2025.

Social Event February sadly we do not have a date for this as yet.

The Annual Dinner is booked at Princes Park on Saturday, 29 March 2025, the entertainer , Sarah Barker, is also booked. More details in the New Year.

Spring Break to The Royal York and Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth. A Flyer has a been sent out and bookings are being received.

The "Ceremony of the Keys" has been rescheduled to Monday, 7 April 2025, and a board will be circulated early next year.

Colin

One liners from the Tim Vine Appreciation Group

I would like to thank my neighbour for lending me a large plastic cover for my garden furniture
- Ta Pauline

Sold my vacuum on Ebay the other day, well it was only collecting dust.

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in October and November

Steve Brown, Eric Hookins, John Longstaff

Peter Marsh, Peter Spurin, John Symes,

Derek Putman, Maurice Tilley and Clive West



Autumn Break Report

What a lovely weekend! Twenty-four of us, including several of our newer members, went to the Brickwall Hotel in Sedlescombe, East Sussex from 10 October to 13 October. Unfortunately, 6 of the original 30 had to call off due to various reasons.

Having all arrived safely on the Thursday in good weather and settled in we gathered in the bar for a convivial session before dinner – an event to be repeated on the other nights also! As those who know the hotel will vouchsafe, the food was up to the usual excellent standard throughout.

On the Friday and Saturday mornings we dispersed to different locations to enjoy the day. Hastings was a popular destination although, unfortunately, the cliff railway is still being refurbished, Bexhill also proved a destination for some, especially the De La Warre Pavillion for coffee sitting on an upper level outside balcony looking at the millpond of a sea in glorious sunny weather. The Museum also appealed as it records the history of Bexhill in various displays including Eddie Izzard's model railways. Walking along the promenade in the sun was also very enjoyable

National Trust locations were on some agendas as was the Kent and East Sussex railway with Bodiam Castle and a stroll around Rye proved up and down and very busy! Battle was another interesting destination for the Abbey and village

All told, this was a very successful break and thoroughly enjoyed by all and not too far to travel from home.

Thanks to all those who came and made it such a good experience.

Roy Freeman

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		1033
General Funds		796
Pending Payment:		765
Contingency Fund		1621
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		4215

The funds pending payment are:- £165 for the upcoming Quiz; £700 for the 2025 Spring Break less £100 deposit paid for this year's Christmas Lunch

Derek

Walks Report

The walk this month is from Birchwood Golf club. The walk is about 2.5 miles (according to O/S maps!). It covers some ancient footpaths and woodland with some lovely views over undulating countryside.

We will be eating at Birchwood Golf club for 12.30 pm. We don't need to preorder if our numbers are under 12, so Phil needs to know by lunch time Monday 11th November, if you are walking and staying for lunch or just having lunch.

More Short jokes

A teacher tells a little boy off about his homework. "This essay you wrote about your pet dog," says the teacher, "is exactly the same word for word, as one your brother wrote." "Of course it is" says the boy "It's the same dog!"

A woman walks into a shop, picks up a can of fly spray and asks, "Is this any good for flies?" "Not really, madam says the assistant. "It kills them!"

Speaker's Report

Our speaker on 31st October is Brian Laverick-Smith who is a retired hovercraft pilot. He will give us a humorous behind the scenes look at the world's biggest hovercraft in operation across the English Channel, set against the history of the hovercraft in Dover. This magnificent machine was one of the most famous and unique British transport inventions of the 20th Century.



During its 32 years of operation, the Hovercraft carried over 40 million passengers across the English Channel.

Lunch will be Liver and Bacon with onion gravy or Fish and Chips

Our speaker on 28th November will be our Gary Mullins and his subject will be "My Career and Luck". Lunch will be Roast tenderloin Pork in herb crust or Fish and Chips

Members

If you know any member who is unwell (including yourself) or if you have new contact details, please contact the Membership Secretary, Ed Holbrook on 01322 863130 or e-mail:

Ed.holbrook@icloud.com

Your news item or joke could have been printed here.

Please let me have something for the next Newsletter.

Steve