



Wilmington Axstane Probus

NEWSLETTER - April 2025

HAPPY EASTER TO YOU ALL



This week is our AGM and cheques will be issued from the Chairman's Fund to donate to our two charities. There will be no speaker.

Lunch is Hand cut Gammon steaks and fried egg with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips, followed by a choice of puddings.

Chairman's Ramblings

I cannot believe that is my last Chairman's report. The year has simply flown by!

I very much enjoyed my final event as Chairman at the Dinner at Dartford Football Club on Saturday 29th March. It was an enjoyable evening with good food, great company and our entertainer, Sarah, was top notch. I certainly hope to see her again at a future Probus event.

Thank you to everyone who supported our events this year. You helped raise £2130 for my two charities – Breast Cancer Kent and The Mustard Seed Project in Mombasa. Well done to all.

I would also like to thank you all for entrusting me with the job of Chairman for the past twelve months. Hopefully you have enjoyed the year as much as I have and I hope my successor has just as good a year mine was.

My grateful thanks also to the Committee members for their support and hard work to keep the Club and its events running.

Finally, I will leave you with (my final) this:

Paul came home from university in much distress. "Mum" he said, "am I adopted?"

"Of course not", his mother replied, "why would you think such a thing?"

Paul showed her his genealogy DNA test results — he was no match for any of his relatives, and a strong

Chairman's Ramblings Continued

match for a family living on the other side of town.

Shocked, his mother called her husband.

"Darling, Paul has done a DNA test and...and...I don't know how to say this...he may not be our son."

"Well, obviously!" he replied.

"What do you mean?" she asked.

"Well, it was your idea in the first place," he said. "Remember that first night in the hospital when he did nothing but scream and cry? And you said 'darling, will you please change him?'

Well", he said proudly, "I reckon I picked a really good one. I'm ever so proud of Paul."



Social Committee Report

The Annual Dinner took place Princes Park on Saturday, 29 March 2025 and 43 attended and it was enjoyed by all.

Twenty members attended the "Ceremony of the Keys" on Monday, 7 April 2025. It was a very cold evening but very enjoyable.

The Spring Break to The Royal York and Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth, 35 of us are going and we pray for good weather.

We are holding another "Curry Night" on **Monday 12th May**, same place and Steve Brown is taking numbers. Please get your name on the board.

My final event is our "Autumn Break", I have booked Judds Folly Hotel in Faversham for the **9th October**. You have all been circulated, please let me know if you are going to come, so far 24 have booked in.

An "Autumn" event is going ahead on the **Saturday, 18 October** at Dartford Golf Club. A flyer is now available and will be sent out in due course. Cost is £48.00 pp and an excellent menu choice is on offer. Contact Steve Brown for details.

I have issued an updated plan for 2025 to reflect changes to our schedule and have shown our social events for 2024 and thus far in 2025 on Page 5.

I took over as Social Secretary from Gwyn Pritchard in 2015, jointly with Jack Swift while I was your Chairman. We swapped formal roles when I finished my second year.

This is my last report as I will be standing down at the AGM.

I have enjoyed my time as your Social Secretary and I hope that you enjoyed our events.

Thank you for your support. Keith Turner has taken up the challenge and I hope that you will support him.

Colin.

Birthdays

A Happy Birthday to everyone with a Special day in April and May

Ian Armitt, Ken Baker, Phil Burt, Joe Irwin, Peter Onley,
Tom Rand, David Viggers and Howard Wardell



Walks Report

There will be a walk on May 14, location still to be decided but I will let you know the details as soon as possible! I'm pleased to say that Peter Marsh will be leading the July walk and he will give out details nearer the time. If you would like to lead a walk, then please let me know and I'll be happy to book a date with you!

Phil

AGM

A reminder that it is the AGM this month. We have all the main committee places with a name against them with the exception of the Vice-Chair. This position is quite important as it a way of learning the job before becoming Chairman. A lot of support is given to the chair from the rest of the committee so neither of the positions are hard to fulfil. There is also a spare place of a committee member as a 'member without portfolio'. If you are interested in either of these two 'jobs' please do not hesitate

We also would like a steward to help take the money every month at the meeting. It isn't arduous and you get to know all the members names and it is not a committee position so there are no strings attached!

Also Probus club subs of £20 are now due and Whiteoak Bowls club subs of £25 are due too.

There is an item concerning payment for outings or events on page 5

The Club's Finances

The current financial position is as follows:

	£	£
Chairman's Charities		2130
General Funds		385
Pending Payment:		5515
Contingency Fund		1560
Balance held in Cash or in Bank		9590

The Chairman's Charity has reached £2130 and this is to be paid to the Chairman's charities at the AGM.

Funds pending payment consists of £5365 for the Spring Break 2025, £350 for the Autumn Get Away minus £200 being the residue of the deposit paid for the October Dinner and Dance.

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Club for the year ended 31 March 2025 are included in this Newsletter. These need to be approved by members at the forthcoming AGM.

Derek

Club Membership Report

This month it is a pleasure to welcome David Rimmer as our latest new member to our club. David was previously a member of the Farningham & Eynsford Probus Club which unfortunately ceased to function a short while after the Covid restrictions were lifted.

Although every member should have been notified directly by email from the Bowls Club, renewal of our 'Social Club Membership' is NOW DUE. A renewal form needs to accompany your subscription of £25. The old membership card is NOT required. I'll have a supply of renewal forms at next Thursdays lunch should anyone need one. Your new membership card (commencing 1st May) will take about 4 weeks for availability. This membership provides free use of the premises for our luncheons, committee meetings & any fund raising events.

Don't forget everyone, this months lunch is our AGM. As you know, the chairman's position is normally for one years duration so Keith Cass will be standing down. After many years on the committee Andrew Dunk is standing down & his services are not to be underestimated. We thank him for his valuable services covering various positions on the committee.

Due to this being our AGM there will not be an after lunch speaker.

Lunch on 24th April will be Hand cut Gammon steaks and fried egg with Chef's choice of potatoes and vegetables or Fish and Chips.

The next lunch will be on 29th May and will be Baked Cod with a herb crust or lasagne.

Speaker's Report

With no speaker at our AGM this coming Thursday, our next speaker on 29 May will be Katie Hook, Area Fundraising Officer from Demelza children's hospice. Demelza is one of David Viggers' chosen charities for the coming year and Katie will give us an update on their activities and how they serve the local community from their two hospices in Sittingbourne and Eltham.

This is my last report as Speaker Secretary as I will be handing over to Steve Brown at the AGM. I would like to thank everyone who has either given me recommendations or suggestions for speakers, or even offered to speak at one of our monthly meetings. Looking back over the last 12 months I hope that we have had a good variety of speakers, including talks from 2 of our own members (Les Robus and Gary Mullins).

We now have speakers booked for the whole of 2025, including a further two "willing volunteers" from our members, but more about this year's programme will follow in due course. In the meantime if you have heard a good speaker, please let Steve know as personal recommendations are always an invaluable source for finding future speakers.

Andrew

Probus Events 2024 to 2025

Social	Fri, 23 Feb 2024	Bouncing Bunnies	Fri, 21 Feb 2025	Bouncing Bunnies
	Sat, 30 Mar 2024	Cockney Knight's	Wed, 12 Feb 2025	Cabaret at the Cotton Club
	Wed, 7 Aug 2024	RHS Wisley	Mon, 17 Feb 2025	Curry Night.
	Thu, 3 Oct 2024	Les Miserables	Mon, 7 Apr 2025	Ceremony of the Keys
	–	–	Mon, 12 May 2025	Curry Night.
Social Lunch	Wed, 10 Jan 2024	The Plough	Wed, 8 Jan 2025	The Plough
	Wed, 3 Apr 2024	The Plough	Wed, 2 Apr 2025	The Plough
	Wed, 5 Jun 2024	The Plough	Wed, 4 Jun 2025	The Plough
	Wed, 4 Sep 2024	The Plough	Wed, 3 Sep 2025	The Plough
	Wed, 6 Nov 2024	The Plough	Wed, 5 Nov 2025	The Plough
Spring Break	Mon, 6 May 2024	The Imperial Hotel, Great Yarmouth.	Mon, 28 Apr 2025	Royal York & Faulkner Hotel, Sidmouth
Wilmington Fayre	Mon, 26 Aug 2024	The Common	Mon, 25 Aug 2025	The Common
Autumn Getaway	Thu, 10 Oct 2024	The Brickwall Hotel, Seddlescombe	Thu, 9 Oct 2025	Judds Folly Hotel, Faversham
Chairman's Dinner	Fri, 19 Apr 2024	Princes Park	Sat, 29 Mar 2025	Princes Park
Summer Lunch	Thu, 25 Jul 2024	Whiteoak	Thu, 31 Jul 2025	Whiteoak
Chairman's Autumn Social	–	–	Sat, 18th Oct 2025	Dartford Golf Club
Christmas Lunch	Mon, 2 Dec 2024	Dartford Golf Club	Mon, 1 Dec 2025	

Payment for Outings or Events

Can I bring your attention to rules 4 c) and e) of our constitution:

c) It shall be assumed that a member will attend each monthly lunch meeting unless he contacts the Honorary Secretary or appointee with his apology by midday of the Tuesday preceding the meeting. Non- attendance in exceptional circumstances such as sickness on the day or preceding day of the meeting should still be notified with apologies to the Honorary Secretary or appointee who will endeavour to cancel the meal with the caterer.

e) Members, including Life and Honorary members are required to pay in full for any social event before they will be included in the numbers for that event.

We have had several occasions recently when people have said that they are attending an event and not turned up or they have turned up and haven't paid. This is costing the club a considerable amount of money and we need to put a stop to it, so please make sure that you pay and attend or give as much notice to the organiser if you cannot attend.

Phil

WILMINGTON AXSTANE PROBUS CLUB

TREASURER'S REPORT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31 March 2025 shows a total year-end balance of £10051.23.

The constituents of that balance are shown in Note 1 and miscellaneous expenditure and fundraising details are expanded in notes 2 and 3. The amount collected towards the Chairman's Charities has reached £2130, to be distributed to those charities at the AGM.

At the year end we retain a contingency fund of £1560.33 (Note 4) and funds collected for events but not utilized as at the year-end are set out in Note 5.(£5915.00)

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Derek Putman – Treasurer

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WILMINGTON AXSTANE PROBUS CLUB ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2023/24	Social					Fund		2024/25
	Receipts	Events	Holidays	Lunches	Subs	Raising	Other	Total
£		£	£	£	£	£	£	£
612.50	Subscriptions				720.00			720.00
6,589.00	Lunch Takings		6,787.00					6,787.00
4,339.19	Fund Raising					2,631.74		2,631.74
10,707.05	Functions	11,395.85						11,395.85
19,163.00	Holidays		20,587.38					20,587.38
	Outings							
67.50	Regalia						49.00	49.00
41,478.24		11,395.85	20,587.38	6,787.00	720.00	2,631.74	49.00	42,170.97
Payments								
5,874.00	Lunch Costs		6,061.00					6,061.00
3,500.93	Chairman's Charity					4,141.42		4,141.42
11,788.19	Functions Cost	12,686.12						12,686.12
15,842.75	Holidays Costs		32,698.00					32,698.00
	Outings Costs							
307.36	Regalia						294.38	294.38
91.39	Insurance						91.39	91.39
	Donations							
360.00	Speakers						602.00	602.00
27.50	Administrative Costs						67.98	67.98
192.57	Bank Charges						208.53	208.53
229.99	Miscellaneous (Note 2)						61.70	61.70
38,214.68		12,686.12	32,698.00	6,061.00	-	4,141.42	1,325.98	56,912.52
3,263.56	Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,290.27)	(12,110.62)	726.00	720.00	(1,509.68)	(1,276.98)	(14,741.55)
21,529.22	Balance B/F	105.04	20,771.18	3,862.30	3,974.50	3,640.23	(7,560.47)	24,792.78
24,792.78	Adj	(1,185.23)	8,660.56	4,588.30	4,694.50	2,130.55	(8,837.45)	10,051.23
	Balance C/F							

2023/24		31-Mar-25		2024/25
£				£
23,441.79	HSBC Bank			10,034.78
1,350.99	Cash			16.45
<u>24,792.78</u>				<u>10,051.23</u>
Note 1.	Balances held:		£	£
	Fund Raising - Chairman's Charity	(see Note 3)	2,130.55	
	Events Contingency Fund	(see Note 4)	1,560.33	
	Funds Pending payment		5,915.00	
	General Funds		<u>445.35</u>	<u>10,051.23</u>
Note 2.	Miscellaneous		£	
	Coffee Morning Surplus		(3.30)	
	Accounts Examiner		25.00	
	Gazebos		77.62	
	Contingency Fund Transfer		(77.62)	
	Poppy Wreath		<u>40.00</u>	
				<u>61.70</u>
Note 3.	Fund Raising:		£	
	Balance brought forward		3,640.23	
	NW Kent MNDA		(1,800.00)	
	Around and Around		(1,800.00)	
	Donations		30.50	
	AGM Raffle		55.00	
	Wilmington Fair		840.08	
	Summer Lunch		77.50	
	Christmas greetings		230.09	
	Christmas Lunch Raffle		<u>250.00</u>	
	Race Night		375.00	
	Chair Dinner Raffle		230.00	
	Chair Dinner Surplus		<u>2.15</u>	<u>2,130.55</u>
Note 4.	Events Contingency Fund:		£	
	Held in 'Holidays'		<u>1,560.33</u>	<u>1,560.33</u>
Note 5	Funds Pending Payment		£	
	Autumn Get Away		350.00	
	Chairman's Dinner		-	
	Oct Dinner & Dance		0.00	
			- 200.00	
	Spring Break 2025		<u>5,765.00</u>	<u>5915.00</u>