

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES

1st October 2024

Issue No 55

Have you ever been to *Oktoberfest*, that annual extravaganza in Munich, held this month? Neither have I, and it's a big regret. The idea of blond Frauleins serving quantities of fine ale in foaming beer steins is quite appealing, don't you think? What about a club outing there? We could draw lots to find the driver who would have to stay sober. While the rest of us slept on the bus in a drunken state all the way home. With frequent stops of course.

Alternatively, we could stay at home and simply enjoy a wide selection of tasty beers in our wonderful pubs where you can order your pint in your own language. West Sussex has some of the best beers, several brewed on the premises such as at The Gribble in Oving. I did like the array of beers at The Fox last month.

In days of old, beer was safer to drink than water which is probably why Arundel once had over twenty ale houses, pubs and the like. Most of the buildings are private homes today. The General Abercrombie, Jolly Sailors, Victory and Wheatsheaf are no more, but the Swan, Red Lion, Eagle, Black Rabbit and White Hart are still there for your drinking pleasure.



This glorious tree is called October Glory, appropriately enough, and one of the most beautiful at this time of year. Its full name is *Acer rubrum* "October Glory" and can be obtained from gardenersdelight.co.uk (from whom I have borrowed this photo) and from other good nurseries, including the Arundel Arboretum..

Like all Acers, or Maples, its leaves change colour in the autumn - to this vivid blood orange. Others change to dark reds and crimson, orange flame to gold and through to yellows. In some years the colours can last for weeks. However, an early winter storm, or frost, can quickly curtail their glorious displays.

If you can, do visit Sheffield Park this month, or next, as the colours there are always fantastic. I quite like autumn!

What's on this month? October

Thursday 10th, Pub Lunch at The Arun View, jointly with Bognor Probus club, kindly organised by Ian Goodall. Early indications suggest about ten will come from Bognor but we'll know for sure in good time.

You should have ordered my now. In case you haven't here are the choices but be quick.

MAINS

Chicken Supreme with a cream of mushroom and marsala wine sauce served with lyonnaise potatoes and seasonal vegetables.

Steamed Bacon and Onion Roly Poly with a white onion sauce served with buttery mash potato and cabbage.

Steak and Ale Pie with buttery mash potato and seasonal vegetables.

6oz Bacon and Brie Burger in a brioche bun with skinny fries and tomato salsa

Fillet of Cod in crispy batter with chips and peas

Grilled Fillet of Cod in lemon butter with chips and peas Halloumi and Vegetable Kebabs with a tomato and red pepper coulis served with couscous stuffed peppers ****

DESSERTS

Double Chocolate Brownie with chocolate sauce and vanilla ice cream

Glazed Passionfruit Tart with raspberry sorbet

Apple and Blackberry Frangipane Tart with vanilla ice cream

Profiteroles filled with fresh cream topped with chocolate sauce.

Cost £24.50 per person, including tip. Payment by BACS is preferred, and payment must be made by 3rd October.

Advise Ian Goodall of your choice of menu and method of payment, by email: ig@goodall.net or by phone: 07786 223322.

Monthly Raffle

For a few years, Barry Hopkins has organised a raffle for a decent bottle of wine at our monthly meetings. Tickets are £1 each and the profit goes towards the cost of the annual Christmas lunch raffle prizes.

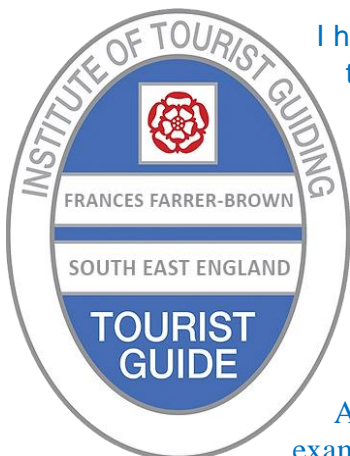
Now Barry has handed over the monthly raffle to David Feist so “thank you” Barry, and “thank you” David. Don’t forget to bring a £1 coin with you. Good Luck. 🍷🍷🍷



Thursday 24th October. Regular monthly meeting at the White Swan hotel.

Speaker - Fran Farrer-Brown. “Portsmouth Harbour and the Three Ships” - followed by Lunch.

Fran is a very accomplished speaker. A seasoned Blue Badge guide to the South of England, no less. She lives in Lyminster with her husband, a retired local Doctor, so may be known to several of our members.



I have heard Fran speak before and she has a great depth of knowledge. Her chosen talk answers many questions. Why did the Mary Rose sink? What did the men in Nelson’s navy have for lunch? How much did a Second Class Boy earn on the Warrior? Fran’s talk also takes us through the history of the Royal dockyard at Portsmouth.

Fran has been a Blue Badge Guide for over twenty years.

What is a Blue Badge Guide? The Blue Badge is the top qualification for guiding in the UK and is an internationally recognised benchmark of excellence.

Awarded by the [Institute of Tourist Guiding](http://www.institutetouristguiding.co.uk), guides undergo rigorous training and examination, guaranteeing you the best experience and service.

September Pub Lunch at The Fox, Felpham - report

On a beautiful sunny autumn morning about twenty members and wives visited a pub the club had not been to before, and we were not disappointed. The Fox in Felpham lies at the very edge of our club’s territory meaning members from Goring, East Preston etc had quite a journey but I believe their journeys were worthwhile.

Service was excellent and there was plenty of food on the plates. My chicken pie was very tasty and I didn't see any food left on anyone's plate. We were seated comfortably around several large tables in a spacious sunlounge which we had to ourselves.

I would not be at all surprised if the club returns to The Fox, Felpham within a year as there was nothing not to like about the place. The car park was spacious and, even more importantly, there was quite a good selection of beers on tap ! Thank you, Ian and Richard.

“Tax, Care and Toy Boys” report of 26th September talk by Julie Pullinger of Co-op Legal Services

This was a truly valuable talk covering, in particular, inheritance tax, care options and the not-so-funny risks for widows seeking male friendship after bereavement. Several members signed up for a free consultation from Co-op Estate Planning to have their arrangements re-assessed or to set up new ones.

Birthdays this month They'd both love to hear from you, on the same day, too.

Stephen Brocklebank 22nd shbprivate@icloud.com

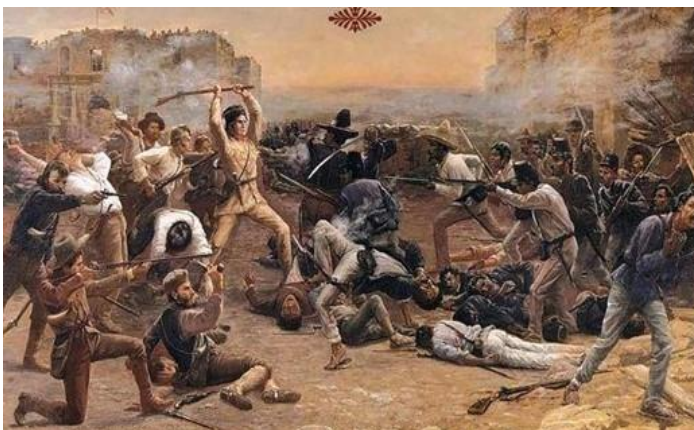
John Hollister 22nd jojohnholl@gmail.com

An Arundel man's part in the Battle of the Alamo

Forgive me if you have already read this article, having browsed through the internet as I did, but I thought it would be of interest to those who haven't.

At a critical stage of the Texas Revolution, a large Mexican army surrounded a makeshift fortification known locally as the Alamo. It was there that a small defensive force of mostly Texans had become holed up and where they vowed to 'never surrender or retreat'. After a siege lasting 13 days, the Mexicans assaulted the fortification during the early hours of Sunday, March 6 1836. Except for a few women and children, and one male slave, everyone inside was killed. Among the dead was William Daniel Hersee.

“His name appears on the Spirit of Sacrifice memorial which stands adjacent to the Alamo complex in San Antonio, Texas, and he is known to have been born in England. A further study of official documentation in England such as the Register of Births Deaths and Marriages, and census returns, etc, revealed that he was born in West Sussex, to Charles and Jane Hersee, and he was baptised at South Stoke, Arundel, on April 6 1806. He married Ann Maria (formerly French) on April 22 1826, at Yapton, near Bognor Regis and they had four children.



“William took his family to America, and subsequently lived in New York, until moving to New Orleans. "He is believed to have already held the rank of sergeant when he arrived in Texas in 1834 so he may have been in the British army. He is listed on the original muster roll as belonging to Captain Carey's Artillery Company, which gained the name Invincibles during the siege and actually acted as a kind of military police.”“In 1836 Texas fought for independence from Mexico, and when William heard that a unit was being mustered in his town to go to San Antonio to fight, he joined Captain Carey's Artillery Company. He took part

in the siege of Bexar when the Texans defeated the Mexicans. However, on hearing that the notorious Mexican leader, Generalissimo Santa Anna, was on his way to San Antonio with a large army, he, along with Colonels William Barret Travis (who was also from an English family) and about another 180 men, chose to defend a former mission complex known as the Alamo on the other side of the San Antonio River which they had turned into a makeshift fort.

“After a siege which lasted nearly two weeks, during which the defenders suffered continuous cannon bombardments and sniper fire, in arid conditions and with little sustenance, the Mexican army assaulted the Alamo on the early morning of March 6 1836. After a fierce battle, all the Texans capable of bearing arms were killed, including Gunner Hersee and all of his men, and their bodies were unceremoniously burned. “The front of the Alamo chapel has been preserved in San Antonio as a memorial to William Hersee and the other defenders.”

A new book (from which I have borrowed the picture) entitled “The Alamo defenders” by James W. Bancroft, sheds new light on this famous battle which also involved James Bowie (of the knife), and Davy Crockett. Should be a good read.

What's on next month, November ?

Thursday 14th, Pub Lunch, Littlehampton Golf Club, Rope Walk. Thanks to David Feist.
12.30 for 13.00

MAIN

BEEF BOURGUIGNON WITH RICE OR MASH

POACHED SALMON, NEW POTATOES AND SEASONAL VEGETABLES

VEGETABLE OPTION AVAILABLE

DESSERTS

APPLE PIE WITH CREAM OR CUSTARD OR ICE CREAM

FRESH FRUIT PLATTER WITH CREAM OR ICE CREAM

INCLUDES TEA/COFFEE COST £24 (INCLUDES TIP)

CHOICE OF MENU TO DAVID FEIST

davidfeist.1942@gmail.com

01903 715178

PAYMENT BY BACS AND LET DAVID KNOW YOU HAVE PAID BY THIS METHOD. CHEQUES SENT TO DAVID FEIST, 22 WOOLDRIDGE WALK CLIMPING, BN17 5TB

FINAL PAYMENT AND MENU CHOICES BY 24th OCTOBER 2024 (OCTOBER MEETING)

THIS IS OUR FIRST VISIT TO LITTLEHAMPTON GOLF CLUB SO WE HOPE TO SEE MANY MEMBERS ATTEND WITH THEIR PARTNERS.

WE MUST BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT THE RESTAURANT IS ON THE FIRST FLOOR WITH A NUMBER OF STAIRS TO BE CLIMBED.

DIRECTIONS FROM THE TESCO ROUNDABOUT TAKE THE A259 TO BOGNOR. TAKE THE FIRST LEFT TURN, FERRY ROAD OPPOSITE CLIMPING PARK HOMES. THEN AFTER HALF A MILE TAKE THE NEXT RIGHT WHICH WILL TAKE YOU TO THE GOLF COURSE. THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF PARKING BUT PLEASE NOTE SOME PLACES ARE RESERVED. THERE ARE 2 DISABLED SPACES.

COMING FROM ARUNDEL VIA FORD ROAD, AT THE JUNCTION WITH THE A259 TURN LEFT TOWARDS LITTLEHAMPTON AND THEN TAKE A RIGHT TURN INTO FERRY ROAD OPPOSITE CLIMPING PARK HOMES. THEN, AFTER HALF A MILE, TAKE A RIGHT TURN WHICH WILL TAKE YOU TO THE GOLF COURSE

ON ARRIVAL I WILL BE WAITING AT THE CLUB HOUSE ENTRANCE TO GREET AND DIRECT YOU TO THE RESTAURANT AND BAR. ADDRESS 170 ROPE WALK, LITTLEHAMPTON, BN17 5DL DAVID FEIST

Thursday 28th November. Regular monthly meeting at the White Swan hotel. Speaker Bill McNaught, making a welcome return, to tell us all about “**Sir Charles Chaplin**”. Plus another good lunch.

Just a few more pearls of wisdom.....

My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.

"I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."

.My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION .

"Stop acting like your father!"

.My mother taught me about ENVY.

"There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."

My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.

"Just wait until we get home."

My mother taught me about RECEIVING.

"You are going to get it from your father when you get home!"

My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.

"If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."

.My mother taught me ESP.

"Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"

My father taught me HUMOUR.

"When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."

My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT.

"If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."

My mother taught me GENETICS.

"You're just like your father."

My mother taught me about my ROOTS.

"Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a barn?"

My mother taught me WISDOM. When you get to be my age, you'll understand



...Smiling is infectious, you catch it just like flu

When someone smiled at me today, I started smiling too

I walked around the corner and someone saw me grin

When he smiled, I realised, I'd passed it on to him

I thought about that smile and realised its worth

A single smile, like mine, can travel round the earth

So, if you feel a smile begin, don't leave it undetected

Start an epidemic and get the world infected

Spike Milligan

◆ I think my neighbour is stalking me as she's been Googling my name on her computer. I saw it through my telescope last night.

◆ My therapist says I have a preoccupation with vengeance. We'll see about that!

Remember. No place worth going to is easy to reach.

A Reminder

Have you booked your combined Flu and Covid jab yet? Maybe you've already had yours, but most eligible people are being invited to have theirs this month. I, and most fellow members, am too old to have been offered the respiratory virus (RSV) protection last month (79 yrs max). Then there's the Pneumonia jab which lasts a lifetime as does the single Shingles jab. My arm is like a pin cushion. If only they would use the same hole each time.!



Stay safe and warm and DLTBGYD. Bob