

ARUNDEL PROBUS TIMES OCTOBER 2026

No 79

Tis the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness. I hope you are feeling suitably mellow and even a tad fruitful, whatever that may mean. It changed to autumn on the 23rd September, the autumnal equinox but meteorological autumn began on the 1st. September. The grass turned green quite quickly. I wonder if it will be white this winter? What a horrible thought. Sorry !

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The September pub lunch at Angmering Manor was a success and enjoyed by the twenty two attending, but I fail to see how the proprietor made any profit. The plates were full, the complimentary glass of wine on arrival was a generous size and the serving staff did an excellent job.

A few of us had bought drinks from the bar which increased takings a little but at £22 this was the bargain of the year. Maybe this was what is called a “loss leader” event, aimed at encouraging people to return.

Whatever the explanation, 22 of our members and friends had an enjoyable visit and I am sure we shall return again before long, as a club and/or privately.. Thanks Chris and Hilary.



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A young friend got dismissed from his job at a funeral undertakers, after only a few days.

He was manning the telephone and instead of asking whether cremation or burial was wanted, he simply asked “smoking or non-smoking?”

September Speaker on 24th

Tony Hunt gave us a candid account of his five years as Arundel's Mayor at our September meeting. He was virtually thrust into the Mayoralty after barely a year on the council and at a time when the Council was in crisis.

Without his claiming any credit, the Town Council was transformed from a sleepy Parish office to a lively, forward-looking and successful authority during his leadership, simply by applying his business administration skills and experience. Arundel became one of only two authorities in the country, cited as "ones to watch" by the Financial Times, no less.

There were several notable achievements during the period and Tony mentioned a few: the banning of long-stay caravans, campervans and the like from Mill Road was finally achieved. But perhaps the greatest success was with the growth of the monthly Farmers' Market from the time when it was likely to close due to low attendance and financial losses to the market it is today with over seventy stalls and a waiting list. Monthly attendance is now in the thousands. All this after the Town Council took over the running of the market itself. It has even spawned a small, weekly market on Tarrant Street.

The Town Council has very few powers but that has not prevented its transformation. It now earns more from letting the Town Hall and catering for weddings and other functions than it receives as its precept from the County Council.

Tony stressed that the focus of all the council's endeavours remains, as always, the people of Arundel.

Birthdays in October

Honorary Member David Sunray is 100 on October 24th. (See below.)

Stephen Brocklebank's birthday is on the 22nd. Best wishes to him as well. shbprivate@icloud.com



Today's the day - October 1st - for our visit to the Pepper growers at Tangmere Nurseries, kindly arranged by Chris. Follow his instructions, those nine attending, and I will see you there. Then we can visit the Anglesey Arms in Halnaker and have a nice lunch together.

If you are reading this later : Today was the visit to the Pepper growers at Tangmere Nurseries, kindly arranged by Chris. It was very interesting, wasn't it, and that was a nice lunch at the Anglesey Arms afterwards, wasn't it ? !

Probus Lunch 8th October 2026 Worthing Indoor Bowls Club (Field Place)

A reminder

Mains

- Roast Top Side of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding
- Roast Breast of Chicken with Sage and Onion Stuffing

- Pan fried seabass served in a Bonne Femme Sauce
- Homemade Butternut Squash Red Pepper and Sweet Potato Pie

ALL MAINS SERVED WITH FRESH VEG AND ROAST POTATOES

Dessert

- Treacle Tart and custard
- Toffee and Pecan Meringue Roulade with Banoffee Toffee Sauce and Ice Cream.
- New York style Cheesecake with Red Cherry Compot and Ice Cream
- Mini cheeseboard , crackers and chutney

Coffee to Follow

£23.00 per person

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Did you know you can now get birth control tablets for dogs ?

It's part of the anti-litter campaign.

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Bognor Regis Men`s Probus Club and Felpham Ladies Probus Club

Invite **us** to join **them** on a day trip to Hever Castle at Christmas, **with** a three course meal.



Wednesday 9th December 2026 Cost £75.00pp (including driver gratuity)

Coach leaving Bognor 9:30am & Returning 18:30pm. Stopping in Arundel both ways

Theme this year; The Nutcracker. Plus Lights and much more.

For details contact Bill Page or Evelyn Cooke. email: billandflopape@hotmail.com

07971 828 025 or evelyncooke@live.co.uk 07752 864 895

Find out all about Hever Castle at; www.hevercastle.co.uk

Our Honorary Member David Sunray is 100 years old on 24th of this month. I wrote to him after Tony Hunt's talk last month. Here's David's reply.

"Wish I had been able to see and hear Tony at the last meeting. He is a great chap, great for Arundel. He even kindly delivered our prescriptions to me during the lock-down . Never heard of a mayor doing such!

Secret is out then. I will be 100 on 24 October. Wife Brenda 99 on 13 October. Will have family lunch at Avisford hotel, which once belonged to an Arundel probus member!

You may not know that when Probus Secretary I introduced monthly lunches instead of the occasional lunches. We needed help with sound for most of us were hard of hearing. Started with a kereoky kit from Argus. Pretty ropy until we spent more for better equipment. Also arranged overseas trips with wives, starting with a week in gay Paree. In those days we were limited to 58 members I think. Always a waiting list. Most members were ex wartime servicemen and had extraordinary tales to tell.

I am not a mullet. London born and bred but evacuated to Oxford with St Clement Dane's school en bloc day before war broke out. Then in late 1940 evacuated to USA for three years. En route witnessed u-boat sunk by our escorting destroyer. Returned to UK in 1943 in battleship . On my 18th birthday was given my RAF number. Later transferred to 6th airborne division in the army in Palestine and Egypt. Not very pleasant in Palestine. British not wanted. Later RAF found me and sent to Egypt. I flew home on floor of Lancaster bomber for demob.

Then Barclays Bank international for 40 years, ending as assistant general manager. Specialised in our Middle East operations . Was behind enemy lines in Damascus to sort out some problems. Bit scary because kidnapping popular then.

Prior to that, as international payments specialist, I suggested creation of a credit card, which two years later was Barclaycard. I was awarded ten genuines and a magnum of champagne. Also, you may see on your bank statement: SWIFT (and/or IBAN). I devised SOCIETY FOR WORLDWIDE INTERNATIONAL TRANSACTIONS/TRANSFERS. (IBAN is for international bank account number.)

Stroke on Boxing Day 2019, and decrepit ever since. Classified by ministry of defence as 30% war disabled from skin cancer. No hat or sun cream whilst in desert for two years! You have heard of the expression "like a hole in the head". Well, I have one as result of recent cancer surgery in Portsmouth.

Regret I have rambled on a bit. Old geezers do, I fear." David.

Please send your good wlshes to David. The King will do so why not you too? alexds3560@yahoo.com

Have you ever been to Probus?



It's actually a small village in Cornwall, named after an obscure ancient Saint and with population around 2,300. It is near Truro and has the tallest church tower in Cornwall – and there are a lot of them – at 129 feet high. A nearby barn once housed the largest breeding colony of Greater Horseshoe Bats in Cornwall, and one of very few in Britain.

And yes, there is a Probus club there. The Probus Club of Probus.

Among the notable residents who have lived in Probus is Joseph Brennan (1818 – 1872) a bombardier in the Royal Artillery and winner of the Victoria Cross. Any relation Rich?

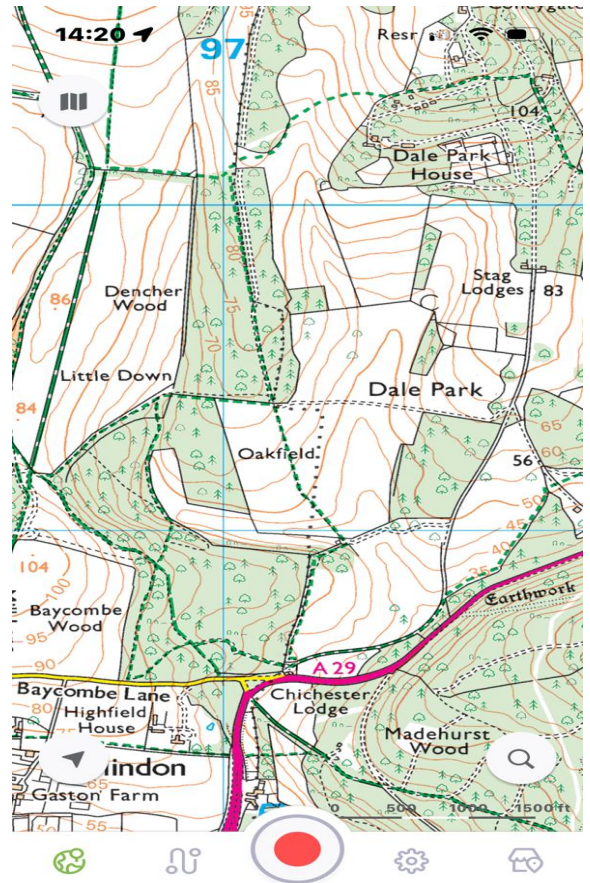
Probus Walking Group.

Chris Linford is organising the final Club walk of the year, this time near Slindon village. The walk will be a little less than an hour, and the distance will be less than 3 miles. The walk is largely on relatively level grass paths or country type paths.

The walk will take place on Wednesday 21 October starting a little later than usual at 12.00. We will drive afterwards to The Spur at Slindon for a pub lunch around 1.00-1.15pm.

If you would like to join Chris, please email him on chrislinford@villahelios.co.uk and he will acknowledge your email and send you further details of the walk, and where and when to meet. Please invite friends or partners and let him know who will be coming and who will be staying to lunch.

The deadline for letting Chris know is Wednesday 14 October.



Future Speakers' Programme to end of year, and into 2027

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

26th November Chris Linford. "The Trans-Canadian Railroad and the making of Canada"

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

January 28 Sally Crathern "Demystifying AI" Confirmed

February 25 Alex New "Highdown Gardens" Confirmed

March 25th A local GP "The Ethics of Medicine" TBC

REMINDER The January, February and March meetings, talks and lunches will be at The Spur, Slindon, while The White Swan is closed for refurbishment.

Pub Lunches for the next five months, including Festive Lunch

8th October. Worthing Indoor Bowls Club. (See details above)

12th November. Littlehampton Golf Club. (See details below)

10th December Christmas Festive Lunch at White Swan hotel.

7th January Fino, Italian Restaurant, Felpham.

11th February Squire and Horse, Bury TBC

Pub Lunch at Littlehampton Golf Club. Rope Walk, Littlehampton BN17 5DL

Thursday 12th November

MAINS

Chicken Breast with creamy Tarragon sauce, potatoes and vegetables

Poached Salmon, new potatoes, seasonal vegetables with lemon butter sauce

Vegetarian pie with new potatoes and vegetables

DESSERTS

Apple pie with cream, or ice cream or custard

Fresh fruit platter and Ice cream

Cheese and biscuits

Tea/Coffee

£28 Including tip

CONTACT davidfeist.1942@gmail.com OR TELEPHONE 01903 715178 WITH YOUR CHOICES. STATE METHOD OF PAYMENT. PAYMENT BY BACS IS PREFERRED TO THE CLUBS BUSINESS ACCOUNT 10642681 SORT CODE 20-20-62 REF NOV PUB. CHEQUES CAN BE HANDED IN TO THE TREASURER STEPHEN. MAKE PAYMENT TO ARUNDEL PROBUS CLUB AND WRITE ON THE BACK OF THE CHEQUE WHAT THE PAYMENT IS FOR.

LAST ORDERS THURSDAY 22nd OCTOBER 2026

There are stairs to be climbed and ample parking.

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We send our best wishes to those members who are not so well at the moment and hope you will soon recover sufficiently to allow your return to our meetings. Meanwhile, our thoughts are with you.

Very sincerely

Bob