



PROBUS RECORDER

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF GILLINGHAM DORSET - No. 171 - January 2019
(www.probus-gillingham-dorset.org.uk)



Club chairman, Ron Walker (second from left), at the Christmas Dinner with members Chas Albury, Bill Sims and Peter Grange. More pictures on the back page

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

It's difficult to believe how quickly the last eight months has passed since being elected as Chairman, many things have happened during this period, we have had sadness and joy we have had members leave and members join and much of the same I am sure will happen in the remaining four months of my term as Chairman. However to report on the December events we had Ralph's Christmas quiz whereby members were asked to write an amusing verse to the nursery rhyme (Mary had a little lamb) and the winner this year was Mike Robinson with the following verse

'Mary had a great big yak
She lent it to the zoo
But when she went to get it back
They turned into stew'.

Well done Mike. Mike also organised our Christmas lunch at the Crown Inn at Marnhull the food was excellent and plenty of it and I believe it was enjoyed by all, unfortunately this was the last lunch Mike will be organising and I would like to thank him for the great job he did in organising the past lunches, but our new lunch organiser is Roger Ellis and I am sure he will do a splendid job.

FUTURE EVENTS

8 January

Speaker: **Derek Radley**
'Victim Support'

22 January

Speaker: **Dickon Povey**
'I didn't mean to go abroad'
*Today is Ladies' Invitation
*Lunch at the Virginia Ash,
Henstridge, 12.30 for 12.45

16 January

Skittles evening, Royal
British Legion HQ 19.45

24 January

Golf at Long Sutton

12 February

Visit to Oakham Treasures
near Bristol. Travel by coach

During December we had two speakers the first was Shirley Critchley her subject was Mayhem, Mutiny, and Murder It was, in part, a history lesson from the 17th century, and she also talked about her experiences on the island during her visit in modern times.

The second speaker was Jenny Morrisetti her subject was about the charity Weldmar and how they help the people and families in need of mental and physical help with the money raised by the charity shops.

I must mention Malcolm Coles who has been unwell with a long term illness which is not improving. He is now unable to attend the meetings, therefore has decided to resign. This is very sad and I am sure we all wish him well and hope his condition improves, however we have spoken to him and should he like to renew his membership sometime in the future he would be most welcome.

Finally I would like to mention the Annual Dinner we held at the Grange Hotel, Osborne. I was delighted how the evening went so well and this was due to the help of certain members, I did thank them on the night but I would also like to thank them again in this report, Colin Chamberlin for his help on many things particularly for organising the coach, Mike Robinson for the Raffle. Roger and Susan Lester for taking the photos which are now on the web, the staff at the Grange and all the members for making it a special evening. *Ron Walker*



Shirley Critchley – ‘Mayhem, Murder and Mutiny’ - 27 November

Mrs Critchley, who lives in Poole, gave a talk – with the aid of stunning photographs – of her participation in the 2006 expedition by the Scientific Exploration Society to Chile, led by Colonel John Blashford-Snell. The purpose of the expedition was to look at glaciers and the effects of global warming, but also to search for the wreck site of *HMS Wager*; which struck rocks near a remote island in Patagonia in 1741. Aided by divers

from the Chilean Navy, some timbers were discovered in shallow water which dated from that time, leading to the conclusion that these were indeed from the *Wager*.

The *Wager* saga is a dramatic tale of hardship, mutiny and survival (for some at least). *HMS Wager* (named after Sir Charles Wager, 1st Lord of the Admiralty) was part of a British War Squadron under Commodore Anson. A converted East Indiaman, *Wager* was the store vessel for the Squadron, with many supplies and trading goods on board. This was during the reign of George II, at the time of the War of Jenkins' Ear.

The ship lost contact with the other ships, and struck rocks within sight of a small island off the coast of Chilean Patagonia. Many of the 243 men on board were pressed men. Despite heavy seas, many managed to brave these and land on the island. They were able to get some supplies from the ship, and managed to survive for several months. However, discipline broke down, with arguments about how to break out of their predicament. The tension was made worse when the captain, Captain Cheap, shot a midshipman (*pictured above*); the main body mutinied and left Cheap and a few others on the island, sailing away in a modified open boat. Ultimately some survivors from this group made it back to England.

Captain Cheap and his group were eventually re-joined by some crew, including Midshipman John Byron (grandfather of the poet Byron). Cheap's group, guided by natives, made their way north to an inhabited region of Chile. Most died, but a few – including Cheap – eventually also arrived back in England.

Members and their lady guests enjoyed the talk, and following the Chairman's vote of thanks, showed their appreciation in the usual way. *Alan Jeffs*

Jennifer Morisetti – Weldmar - 11 December 2018

Mrs Morisetti spoke about the benefits of volunteering, and in particular referred to her involvement with the Weldmar Hospice Charity. Her work as a volunteer started many years ago, and she has worked as a volunteer with Weldmar in various roles, from work in one of the charity shops, serving on the fundraising committee, and now as a Visiting Speaker. By working as a volunteer for a worthwhile charity, this involvement helped her personally, filling a void following her retirement from the Navy.

Weldmar Hospice Trust is a Dorset based charity (www.weld-hospice.org.uk) providing end



of life care at hospices in Dorchester and Weymouth (*pictured left*), and also teams of specialist health workers working with patients and families in their homes, helping patients to live as actively as possible, and helping their families to cope. Day services are also provided at several locations in the county. Weldmar Community Nurses visit patients at home, in care homes and the community hospitals.

The Charity spends approximately £8 million on its services.

25% of this cost is met by the NHS, leaving £6 million to be raised, through a combination of donations, special fund-raising events, legacies and charity shops selling good quality clothes, books etc. In 2017, 266 families in North Dorset benefited from Weldmar services. Jenny Morisetti pointed out that more volunteers are needed to help in various ways – including helping in one of the 20 charity shops (there is one in Gillingham), as a friendly visiting companion, a volunteer driver, or joining one of the fund-raising teams.

Jenny also referred to her role as a volunteer as a Sustainability Champion for North Dorset. (www.sustainabledorset.org). She is a contact giving useful information about energy efficiency, retrofitting, healthy and sustainable homes. Sustainable Dorset spreads the message of careful and sustainable levels of consumption of the planet's resources (*look at the website for further details*).

After questions, the Chairman gave the vote of thanks. *Alan Jeffs*

A word from the wise

If you completed and registered a Power of Attorney between April 2013 - 2017 then you are entitled to a partial refund of the fee from the Ministry of Justice. You just need to complete on-line form that you can find via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/power-of-attorney-refund>

There are two types - LPA and EPA - and many people complete both types. Refund is between £34 and £54 for each one filed. Thanks to Peter Grange



Members and guests enjoying the Club's Christmas Dinner at the Grange at Osborne on December 13 and Mike Robinson (top left) prepares the raffle. *Pictures by Sue and Roger Lester*

Material for the February edition of the Recorder should be sent to Richard Clarke on:
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