



PROBUS RECORDER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PROBUS CLUB OF GILLINGHAM, DORSET
(www.probus-gillingham-dorset.org.uk)

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CHAIRMAN'S NOTES – Roger Lester

At the end of November Susan & I went on another cruise, this time to the Canaries for 12 days on Cunard's Queen Victoria, which was fully decorated for Christmas. Covid-free this time, thank goodness. We met some very interesting people, among them a retired prison governor from Scotland, and a retired Captain RN who was a survivor from HMS Ardent in the Falklands war.

The weather while we were in the Canaries was around 21°C+, which is usual for the time of year, so when we left the Canaries and the Captain told us on his midday briefing that the temperature was forecast to be -5°C when we got home to UK, it confirmed what we had seen on TV. He also said he was open to bribes to turn the ship round & stay in warmer climes, but he obviously didn't get enough bribes!!! We arrived back in Southampton on a Sunday morning and the temperature was -5°C, good forecast! Our car was covered in seagull droppings and frozen solid, so when I got home with the temp now 0°C I felt forced to hose down the car!



HMS Ardent
Falkland Sound
May 1982

I was looking forward to our Probus Christmas Dinner a couple of days after arriving back, but due to some kind soul on the ship, I had a bad cold and thought it prudent not to attend. I was really miffed about that, having missed the Christmas Lunch as well. However, I want to place on record my thanks to Colin Chamberlain for standing in for me at short notice, and to Roger Ellis who ran a masterly raffle. I understand it all went extremely well in my absence! And so I now look forward to Colin's Christmas Dinner next year.

A very Happy, Prosperous and Healthy New Year to everyone!

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS - Editor

Tuesday 10th January 2023	‘One Plod at a Time’ - John Bartlett
Tuesday 24th January 2023	The Merchant Navy in World War II - David Parsons



REPORT ON OUR DECEMBER TALK

Medical Negligence

Ian McLellan – 29 November 2022

Ian McLellan is a long-standing member of our Probus Club. He explained that stemming from his work as a Consultant Cardiac Anaesthetist in Leicester, he became an expert witness in medical negligence cases, took a degree in medical law, and later became involved in mediation and arbitration. Medical negligence was the subject of Ian’s talk, and he gave us various examples of what can constitute medical negligence over various disciplines. Where this is proven, it is important for future medical practices, and may also result in successful claims for compensation.

Medical negligence occurs when medical staff – of whatever discipline – do not follow accepted protocols and carry out their duties in a way that is not up to the standard expected by their profession, and as a result that this negligence or mistake directly caused the injury or worsening condition of the patient; in other words, there was a lack of DUTY OF CARE.

Ian reminded us that in the 1980’s there was a major change in UK medical practices, whereby large claims for compensation were made against them, with a resultant rising cost of medical indemnities; it was then that the NHS then took over liability insurance.

The initial issue is that where medical procedures on a patient are proposed, there must be CONSENT by competent adults; they have a right to decide what happens to them. This consent can be verbal or written, and there should be no pressure, with time allowed for reflection.

Ian then provided some examples of medical mistakes that might be determined to be ‘negligent’:

- Improper anaesthesia given during surgery – such as failing to acknowledge an underlying condition or allergy to certain medications, and thereby administering the wrong anaesthesia.
- Problems during childbirth, when a necessary emergency procedure was not carried out.
- Failure to spot and diagnose a cancerous condition.
- Failure to diagnose other conditions, like heart disease, or mis-diagnosing a blood clot.
- Errors in prescribing medication.

- Failure to maintain awareness of a patient under anaesthesia.
- Team dysfunctionality, or failure to supervise trainees.
- Surgical errors, such as:
 - Performing an incorrect or unnecessary procedure.
 - Failure to sterilise instruments.
 - Operating on the wrong body part or patient.

There could also be medical malpractice. Medical malpractice implies there was an element of intent, or at least direct knowledge that responsibilities and procedures were not being carried out correctly.

Following the [Woolf Report on Access to Justice](#), the legal process for civil cases was streamlined, with Judges having more control over cases, and as far as Medical cases are concerned, the use of expert evidence by registered specialists trained in medical negligence. Medical experts involved in cases meet and agree points of agreement, thus identifying areas of disagreement, thereby saving time and streamlining the process.

Claims for medical negligence have increased substantially over the past few decades, with people becoming more informed and more aware of their legal rights. There is an established pathway to raising complaints, but it is a complex area of law.

*It was an interesting talk from someone with considerable experience in this field.
Colin Chamberlain gave the vote of thanks.*

Report: Alan Jeffs



Old Friends (Support to!)

Many of you will know that one of our members – Peter Marshall – whiles away his time dreaming up new twists in his series of ‘espionage’ books. This is his latest offering, and it is now ‘out on the streets’



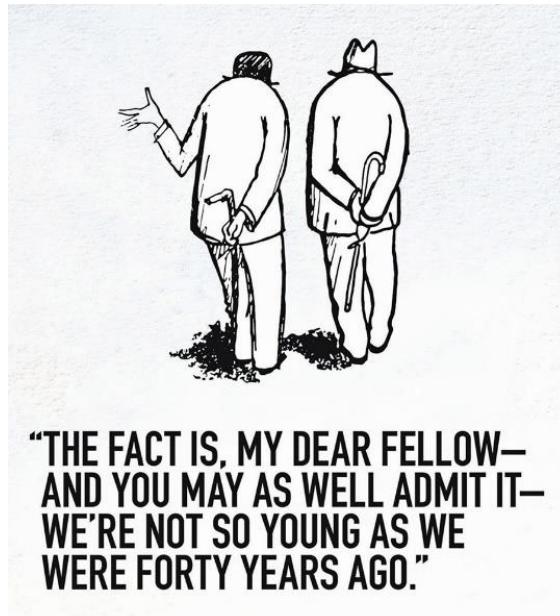
*“My new spy thriller is now available from **Amazon** as a paperback or e-book. In “The Bear is Stirring”, the secret services of Russia and the West pit their wits against each other in the murky world of international espionage – and provide a now too familiar portent of current events. Russia’s GUR agency, frustrated by the successes of America’s CIA and the UK’s MI5/MI6, set out on a four-point plan of reprisals. The action moves swiftly between Tokyo, Moscow, London and Washington DC – with an unexpected romance and finally ending dramatically in Scotland! ”*

Anyone wishing to know more can find out here - <https://petermarshall.uk>



ENDPIECE – Editor

Having only been treated to one talk this last month, I feel the need to spice our lives with a little bit of memory – but without seeming too much like the ‘old codgers’ we are.



So - this is about us, who are 60/70 years old and above. (Youngsters should not be allowed to read this as they may feel highly envious!)

Wow - what a journey it has been!! We should be so proud

We believe that we have lived in the ‘Best Ever’ **Era**.

Born in	1940s/50s/60s
Grew up in	1950s/60s/70s
Educated in	1950s/60s/70s/80s
‘Ventured out’ in ...	1970s/80s/90s
‘Stabilised’ a bit in	2000s
Got a bit wiser in ...	2010s
Made it to	2023 <i>oomph!</i>

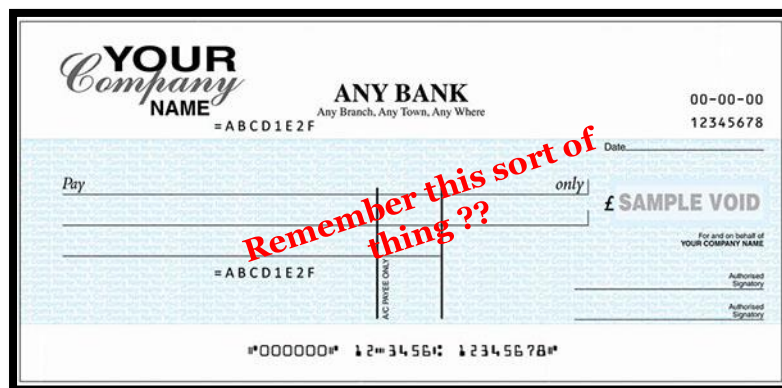
We have **lived through / in**

EIGHT Different	<i>*Decades*</i>
TWO Different	<i>*Centuries*</i>
TWO Different	<i>*Millennia*</i>

We have been through a **communications whirlwind**.

- **Telecoms:** Landline, Phonebooth, Rotary dial phone, Touch-tone phone, Pager, Beeper, Satellite phone, Mobile phone to latest ‘Smart’ phone.
- **Radio/TV:** Transistor radios, Black & White TV, Colour TV, Compact TV, Flat screen TV, Plasma TV, Smart TV.

- **Player/Recorder:** Gramophone player, Tape recorder, Betamax/VHS Video Cassette Recorder (VCR), Walkman, Cassette player, Cartridge player, YouTube to Wireless Streaming.
- **Writing:**
 - Handwritten letters (using a thing called a fountain pen!), Pitman Stenography as shorthand, Dictaphone.
 - Manual Typewriter (Popular brands - Remington, Imperial, Oliver, Olivetti, Underwood, Halda), to Electric Typewriter, Electronic typewriter (Brother, golf ball, typewheel).
 - Computer keyboard (using writing programmes).
 - Telegrams, Teleprinters (Telex), Fax Machine.
 - Email, Text, WhatsApp, Twitter, Snapchat, Instagram, etc.
- **Money transfer:** Money Orders, Postal Orders, Bankers Cheque, Travellers Cheques, DD, BCT, Google Pay, Apple Pay, PayPal, etc.



- **Computing Equipment:** [Comptometer](#), [Facit machine](#), BASIC computers (20 MB Hard disk drive to 2 TB) to latest Laptops, Tablets and iPads, saving data onto 5.25 inch to 3.5 inch floppy disk, to CD/DVD disk, to Pen/Flash Drive, to eternal hard drive etc.

And ... thank goodness:

- We missed the *Spanish Flu* – phew!



- But were on time for *Covid* - ah!

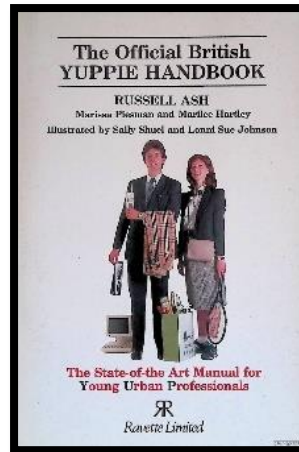


- Some of us were '*hippies*'¹



¹ Someone associated with the counterculture of the 1960s, originally a youth movement that began in the United States during the mid-1960s and spread to different countries around the world.

- and some became ‘yuppies²’:



- We looked good in “bell bottoms”, “flares” and “drainpipes”.



- We grew to love animals aaagh!

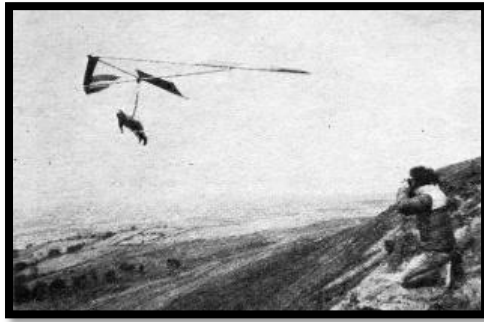


- We walked, cycled, rode, drove, went by steam train, by sea, played in the streets with dust and dirt.



² Yuppie, short for "young urban professional" or "young upwardly-mobile professional", is a term coined in the early 1980s for a young professional person working in a city.

- We hung in the air, we flew - wearing our best clothes ...



- and we are now awaiting the Elon Musk SpaceX to the Moon!!!



Wow!!! What a Life it's been.

Best Wishes, my dear friends, to all of you who are from the golden era - that was, that is, that will be

Happy 2023!!