PROBUS RECORDER

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

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Chairman's Notes

I do hope you have all enjoyed good Christmas celebrations. Margaret and I enjoyed a wonderful time with our family; we were 11 on Christmas Day, and then 19 of us on Boxing Day - with ages ranging from 5 to 84 - plus 7 dogs. We also thoroughly enjoyed the races at Wincanton on Boxing Day - mainly because we managed to lose less than last year!

Back to those almost forgotten days before Christmas – time moves so fast at this time of year - our Probus Christmas Dinner at the Royal Chase was excellent, and thanks must go to Ron and Roger for all their efforts in keeping us in order and sorting out all the arrangements.

Since then, the Friday 'coffee boys' enjoyed a pre-Christmas breakfast at the Old Brewery.

I offer no apologies for returning yet again to the very important subject of the Welfare Officer post – that remains unfilled. **PLEASE** have a think about volunteering for this meaningful appointment.

In addition, any input from our Members regarding any aspect of the Club such as meetings, lunches, speakers etc. will always be most welcome.

It remains for Margaret and I to wish you a happy, healthy and peaceful 2025.

Andrew

WELFARE & SOCIAL

Welfare

In the absence of a Welfare officer, the Editor merely wishes to remind readers that Mike Madgwick has been incarcerated in Southampton General Hospital since before Christmas and may still be there awaiting an operation. However, there is a possibility

that he will have made his escape from hospital by the time of publication, but whichever way it is, I feel sure that we all wish him the very best of good fortune, and hope that he and Louise manage to maintain their good spirits in the face of such adversity, especially at this time of year.

Social - January Club Events

7 January 2025 *(Men only)*	**Kreuzerkrieg** *Ian Mclellan*
21st January 2025 *(Talk - Men only)*	**Designing the RMS Queen Mary 2** *Dr Stephen Payne OBE*
	Members' Lunch *Udder Farm Shop – 12:30 for 1pm*

DECEMBER TALKS

There were no talks in December on which to report.

ENDPIECE – Editor

What can be said in New Year rhymes,
That's not been said a thousand times?

The new years come, the old years go,
We know we dream; we dream we know.

We rise up laughing with the light,
We lie down weeping with the night.

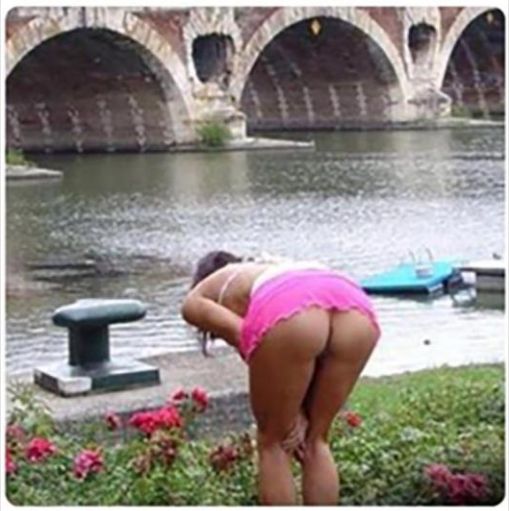
We hug the world until it stings,
We curse it then and sigh for wings.

We live, we love, we woo, we wed,
We wreathe our prides, we sheet our dead.

We laugh, we weep, we hope, we fear,
And that's the burden of a year.

Ella Wheeler Wilcox
1850-1919 USA

Finally – and I hope the picture below doesn't offend! – what follows is meant merely to lighten the gloom of our current weather as we move over the hump of Christmas and into another Year!



ANNUAL YEAR END APOLOGY. Over the past few months I may have forwarded some inappropriate pictures and jokes to friends who I thought shared the same sense of humor.. Unfortunately this wasn't the case and I seem to have upset quite a few people. If you were one of these people, please accept my apologies. Looking to 2025 onward, I will send all post with a cultural or educational content such as old monuments, nature and other interesting topics. Above is a picture of the Pont Neuf Bridge in Paris . It is the oldest bridge in Paris and took 26 years to build. It was completed in 1604..