



## SURREY HEATH PROBUS CLUB

### NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2010.

#### **Membership as at 10/02/10**

At present we have 75 members although a number of long standing members are unable to attend many lunches due to ill health. These include Alex Christie, Bill Somerville and Howard Walker.

Sadly, we have lost some members who have died. These include John Jopson (January 2009) and Harry Richardson (June 2009). Resignations have been received from Colin Boxall, Ken Dixon and Fred Kemp.

We were pleased to welcome new members Charles Bruce, David Webster, Doug Witchell, Chris Bryce, David Millidge, Bob Shearman, Alan Tulip and Ian Butter.

#### **Special Events.**

During the year, Eddie Hardy, Stan Oakes and Mike Duckworth have kept us busy with social activities. Many thanks to all three.

In January 2009, our regular quiz with tea provided a fun afternoon.

In May 2009 a visit to Johnson Press, Portsmouth was an outstanding success, followed in June by a visit to the Queens Gallery and Royal Mews.

In July the highlight was a trip to the RAF TATTOO at Fairford and in August a Cheese and Wine evening organised by Stan and Margaret Oakes was enjoyed by over 50 members and guests.

A most enjoyable August weekend in Devon was organised by Stan Oakes with Truemans which included a steam train journey from Paignton to Kingsbridge and a breathtaking ride to Castle Drogo along single line lanes unfit for coaches. Our excellent driver re-named the destination "Castle No Go" and vowed never to take a coach there again.

A nautical flavour followed in October with an excursion to Chatham Dockyard which included a guided tour of the exhibits and a most interesting demonstration of rope making during which Eddie Hardy was recruited as a member of the rope making team.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November a full coach load of members travelled to Basingstoke for a first class concert by the RAF Band.

The December Ladies Dinner was again a great success followed by a trip to the Albert Hall for the annual carol concert by the Royal Choral Society.

Attendance at the Mince Pies and Mulled Wine Evening at St. Anne's Church Hall

Bagshot on December 18<sup>th</sup> was down to half the numbers expected due to the treacherous weather conditions and icy roads. Those who braved the elements were treated to Hilary Freeman's excellent mince pies and were able to see a film of our visits and activities provided by Mike Morley to a very high standard. Many thanks to Roy, Hilary, Stan, Margaret and Mike for their arrangements.

### **Web Site.**

A major development for the club has been the establishment of our own web site. The address of the website is [www.surreyheathprobusclub.co.uk](http://www.surreyheathprobusclub.co.uk). It has been set up by Dai Davies ably assisted by Mike Morley and is updated regularly with reports of events and details of future programmes. All your comments and contributions are welcome and should be directed to our secretary Mike Morley who will liaise with Dai. Thank you Dai and Mike.

### **Monthly Lunches.**

The monthly lunches continue to be our regular feature. Here I must put in a plea to remind all members of the importance attached to the rule that if you cannot attend, you must notify the secretary or treasurer by the Sunday evening prior to the lunch. This will avoid the embarrassment of being charged for the meal.

### **History of the Club.**

New members may wish to know a little of the Club History. The club was founded

on 27<sup>th</sup> November 1986 when Gordon Wellard was made the first President. The Presidents Medallion of Office was presented to the Club by the Camberley and District Probus Club in May 1987. The Camberley Club were our sponsors. The bell used to announce the start of our proceedings was presented to the Club by Harry Richardson in May 1992. He had been President in 1990-1991.

### **The Future.**

As we approach the AGM in May we will need to have some new committee members. I do hope that volunteers will come forward to contribute to the organisation of the Club with the many activities that are arranged for the benefit of all members—What about it Chaps!

**Finally** I would like to thank all the committee members for their hard work and support throughout the year.

### **Late News.**

Just as these notes had been assembled we received the sad news that John Ford had died on Wednesday evening 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010. John was a founder member of the Club and had served for many years on the committee especially as Speakers Secretary, a task he still carried out until the present time even though he was in poor health. His contribution to the success of the Club will be very much missed.

### **Bruce Hardacre**

**President. 2009-2010.**